MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE + CLUBBING GUIDE

ISSUE 211 £1.80 NOVEMBER 2014

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WORLD AIDS DAY
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MIDLANDS

SHOUT FESTIVAL
THE QUEER ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL RETURNS

WOLVES PRIDE
'BIGGEST & BEST YET' IN PICTURES

LA VOIX
IN A BID TO TAKE OVER EUROPE

GARY LUCY
GOES THE FULL MONTY IN THE MIDLANDS!

ISSN 1462-7035

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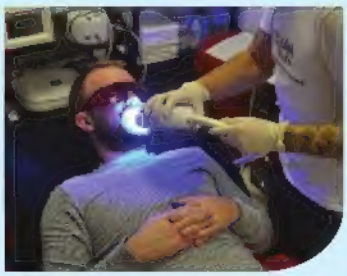
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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

Welcome to the November issue of Midlands Zone magazine. With memories of summer not yet having completely evaporated, it's hard to believe that next month will see us decking the halls with boughs of holly and leaving out glasses of sherry for a portly gentleman who's happier entering houses via the chimney than the front door.

Pride in Pride

Along with that aforementioned memory of summer, we've surely all still got vivid recollections of this year's Pride events. As ever, the Midlands hosted more than its fair share, the majority of which, it's reasonable to say, were hailed resounding successes.

And isn't it absolutely fantastic that Pride events remain so popular and well attended? Critics of these bright and breezy festivals would say that the events have served their purpose and are no longer needed. After all, just look at all the equality that's been achieved. Heck, we gays can even get married nowadays! But those critics are missing the point. The LGBT community remains a minority group. As such, it's important to have events like Pride at which we can all come together and feel united. And maybe even more importantly, while massive steps towards across-the-board equality have undoubtedly taken place here in the UK, elsewhere in the world being LGBT remains a hazardous business. Several countries retain the death penalty for homosexuals; several more believe that being gay is so abhorrent a crime, it deserves a lengthy spell behind bars. While such awful attitudes prevail across the globe, Pride events will continue to have a purpose, providing the opportunity for LGBT citizens in more liberal and accepting societies to show their unwavering support for those within our community who are less fortunate. Those for whom being gay makes them subject to the most horrendous abuses imaginable.

You make me wanna SHOUT!

On a lighter note, this month sees the Midlands hosting the sixth Shout festival of queer culture, presenting the region's gay community with plenty of opportunity to check out what's new and cutting-edge on the LGBT arts scene. The weekend-long festival is positively awash with thought-provoking, high-energy work. Highlights include The Rep theatre's special double-bill of shows, one of which sees a group of LGBT residents from the city centre tower blocks known as Dorothy Towers sharing their memories, experiences and stories of gay life in Birmingham. Check out our special Shout festival feature for further information about this not-to-be-missed weekend of fantastic entertainment.

World AIDS Day

The 1st of December is, of course, World Aids Day. The global health event is now in its 27th year of raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education about the HIV virus. It's estimated that more than 34 million people worldwide are living with HIV, including over two million children. In the UK, around 100,000 people are living with the virus, and the rate of infection continues to rise each year.

As ever, there are plenty of World AIDS Day events taking place in the Midlands in and around December the 1st. Check out our special feature to find out what's going on where, and then get yourself along. We certainly will be.

Enjoy this issue, and see you in December...

Ryan x

What's Hot!

Bringing it all back!

It's actually happening! S Club 7 are finally getting back together, and we're all really excited! So far, all we know is that it's for Children In Need - but we're hoping for a full-blown reunion tour!

Spencer Matthews shows off his new six-pack!

Heat reported this month that hunky Spencer Matthews, from hit E4 TV show Made In Chelsea, has been working out at the gym. His efforts have certainly paid off, because he's now sporting a well-impressive body! Take a look on our Facebook page to see the full picture!

What's Not!

Katie Price. Again.

Katie Price has revealed that she wants the Queen to make her a Dame, but admits that her boobs might get in the way (hers, not the Queen's). I don't think anyone wants to see your boobs anymore, Katie, my dear. After all, we're Team Peter!

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HIV Testing Week 21 -28th November

Geoff Hardy

Co-Founder
Rainbow Film Festival, Shrewsbury

Born: **Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire**
Star sign: **Virgo**
Age: **64**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This month, our focus turns on Geoff Hardy, one of the co-founders of the Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival.

About Geoff

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in between Harlow and Sawbridgeworth, on the Herts/Essex Borders. So I watched a New Town being built. As a family we did a lot of walking and cycling in the country lanes, which I still do today.

Single or attached?

I'm very much attached. I'm in a civil partnership.

What makes you happy?

Spending time with my partner, Peter.

What makes you sad?

It could be so different if we learnt to share. Life is so short. Everyone deserves a decent standard of life and the opportunity to achieve their potential.

What makes you angry?

Injustice. Economic inequality in a world of plenty. Prejudice, discrimination and bigotry. That a small group of people are super-rich when others are starving.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

In 1980, when Peter and I were first together, we decided to attend his work's Christmas do. This would be the first time a gay couple had danced together there. I was wearing Cuban heeled shoes, lost my footing and had to be transported to hospital, with a sprained ankle! Very ungracious!

Have there been any surprises in your life?

When I first met Peter, he said he'd really like children. I was enthusiastic (I'm not a natural parent!) as I wanted to be with him. I never thought it'd be a reality, but we co-parented our son, Liam, who is now 26, and I'm grateful for the experience. It's wonderful watching him discover and become himself.

You were the first couple in Shropshire to have a civil partnership. How was that received at the time?

TV and radio were very supportive. BBC Radio Shropshire actually delayed the 8am news to broadcast the cheer as we went to sign. The Registrar spoke about how much the change in the law meant, and how proud she was to officiate. We were front page in the local paper, so we did wonder how this would affect us, but so many people came up to congratulate us over the next few weeks. It was a sign that things can change.

Will you be converting your civil partnership into a marriage in the near future?

Probably. We haven't decided yet, but it certainly won't be at 8am!

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

I always knew I was different in some way, but I didn't have any words for what I was. As I began to realise it wasn't okay, I felt lonely and isolated, hiding who I was. This has been the driving force behind my activism.

When did you come out?

I didn't come out until I was 21. I had moved to London and, luckily, discovered GLF.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

It was never mentioned in any class. The sports teacher told me I 'ran like a girl' and called me a pansy. I was often sick on the way to school, as I was bullied. One teacher used to give me a lift home if he saw that I'd 'missed' the school bus. This was a real life saver; I'm very grateful to him. Looking back, I think he was gay and knew what I was going through.

Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?

My girlfriend, Lindsay. She was really supportive and glad that I had found myself. We're still friends.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

People come from different backgrounds, religions and cultures, some of which are deeply homophobic. Bearing this in mind, I would say: You have a right to be who you are. Accept yourself. You are not alone. Find someone to talk to, take all the time you need and build a support network before you come out. Read books and watch films that reflect who you are, as this will help you. Remember that homophobia says more about the person who is prejudiced than it does about you.

Activism

You took part in the first London Pride march in 1972. What was the experience like?

I'd come out in late 1971 and had attended a few 'Gay Days' in parks. Being a part of GLF, which had given me a sense of pride in who I was, I knew there was everything to celebrate and nothing to be ashamed of. This was so liberating after years of hiding, so I remember being excited about the march. I spent the day before making a banner and colouring in gay pride stickers.
It was amazing to be with what seemed like a huge number of people, marching and shouting 'Give us a G, Give us an A, Give us a Y...what's that spell?...GAY!'. Seeing the surprise on people's faces that we were being so open, angry and celebratory. Of course, they weren't all supportive - there was a lot of abuse and the police weren't friendly either! The overriding sense was one of being a part of a movement for change that we believed, against all odds, was possible.

How do you think things have changed since then?

In a word: enormously. I couldn't have believed that we would achieve so much. We're so much more visible and open, and so many laws have changed. There's still a long way to go, we haven't arrived and mustn't be complacent. Also, we mustn't forget that there are very oppressive situations in 83 countries around the world.

What other LGBT causes have you been involved with?

I'm looking back over a long period and a lot of campaigns here! I was a member of the London Gay Teachers' Group and came out as a teacher in 1976, so education has been a longstanding one. It's important that our lives are reflected within the curriculum, that homophobia (and other prejudices) are challenged, and that children have positive role models.
I've never been a single-issue person, as all oppression is linked. As the film Pride showed, if you make links with people in their struggle, then a catalyst for change is created. Together we are strong. In the many marches in the 1970s and '80s, there was a visible gay group to join. I was active within my union (NUT) and Gay Rights At Work, defending people who were sacked just for being gay or lesbian. It took until 2003 to win employment rights - and support from unions was vital

in achieving this.
In the early 1980s, I was involved with Greenwich Lesbian & Gay Rights Group. We applied for funding for a Lesbian & Gay Centre, which was successful. As I was no longer teaching, in 1984 I accepted a job-share post. The centre opened in 1986 (now the Metro Centre). Lewisham Council had a number of 'hard to let' properties and initiated a scheme for 'non-priority homeless'. We argued that LGBT people should be included and DYFAH (Dykes and Faggots Housing!) was formed. Around 250 people were housed through this, which created a visible presence on Pepys Estate in particular.
The AIDS crisis had hit by this time and homophobic headlines became prevalent. We became involved with safer sex campaigns and combating the hatred and bigotry. I recently watched Don't Ever Wipe Tears Without Gloves (Swedish TV drama), which brought it all back. It was a really hard time.
By 1986 we'd moved to Shrewsbury. Soon after, Clause 27/8 (later Section 28) was introduced. We became involved with opposing this, which involved vigils on Pride Hill, speaking on the radio and a march in Manchester. The fightback was huge and, even though the Bill became law, it galvanised the LGBT community. Both HIV/AIDS and Section 28 made us front page news: we were more visible. The hurt and anger increased the size of Pride marches and the numbers living more openly, including some high-profile people.
Every change in the law (age of consent, employment, civil partnership, same-sex marriage) involved lobbying locally and writing letters to the paper. Nothing is won by staying silent! The struggle for marriage was a tough campaign, getting people to write letters, sign petitions and so on. SM4A (Shropshire Marriage for All) was formed and, after a lot of hard work, our MP's mailbag encouraged him to vote for it.

Film Festival

What was the inspiration for introducing an LGBT film festival to Shropshire?

In 2005, we fund-raised to screen two films to mark the Equality Act: Wilde (criminalisation of homosexuality) and Get Real (about a schoolboy coming out). We invited teachers and the Director of Education. The film was a sellout, so in the February (LGBT History Month) we screened The Celluloid Closet (a history of LGBT people in film), also a sell out. I floated the idea of a festival and, in December 2006, the Rainbow Film Festival was born!

In those days, we screened a film every night during one week and timed it to include World AIDS Day. In 2010 we moved the dates back to October (avoiding harsh winter weather) and to a weekend (with the same number of screenings). This was a change for the better. Also, we strung festival banners across the streets, increasing visibility. It felt so good seeing those for the first time! Also, we screen films throughout the year, marking World AIDS Day, LGBT History Month and IDAHO. This year we aim to take films to different towns in Shropshire. In January, we have a film at Market Drayton.

What's the process for choosing the films?

The LGBT community is diverse and international. We choose films that reflect this.
Short film screenings are now a part of the festival and the audience vote for the best films (fiction/documentary). The inspiration for this came from Will, one of the three organisers.
We've made a name for ourselves and, these days, short films are sent to us from around the world. The programming of lesbian films is done by SpringOut, who make their own selection, do a great job and work hard to get an audience!
So we search for films then watch screeners (lots!) before we decide on the final selection. We're also on the lookout for films that lend themselves to Q&A sessions, which are very popular. We make these evenings an enjoyable experience by eating a meal first! From experience, we've learnt to watch all the films!

How has the event been supported over the years?

The move to a weekend was definitely the right choice, as audience figures have grown year by year. People now come from all over the UK.
It's great reading the feedback forms, as they're so positive. Reading them makes all the hard work worthwhile.
Financially, we're supported by sponsorships from local businesses, organisations, individuals, and grants from councils. We're very grateful for the support that Midlands Zone gives us.

Next year is the festival's 10th anniversary. Are there any big plans for it?

There are lots of ideas floating around, but we haven't decided anything yet, so watch this space!

Hyde Park Gay Day - 1972

London Pride March - 2012

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene and what's your earliest memory?

I've always been a person who prefers small, intimate settings; clubs are not for me. Recently, we screened a film at The Sitting Room in Ludlow, which is a lovely, cosy venue.
My earliest memory is going to the 141 club in Stoke in the 1970s. I enjoyed that, as it was friendly and local.
Oh, I do like a good sauna too! My favourite is Heroes in Stourbridge, as you can get chatting to people as well as...

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

My early memories involve going to clubs like the Masquerade in London. There was no sign outside and you walked down a staircase, tapped on a hatch and, if you were accepted, you got in. Believe it or not, wearing Brut aftershave worked! Inside, you could dance - but not kiss, or dance too closely, as the clubs were raided from time to time. You couldn't be certain that police in plain clothes weren't there. Also, women were definitely unwelcome.
So it's good to see so many venues nowadays, and with windows onto the street, and the openness. It also feels that the scene is more diverse these days. However, I think more needs to be done for younger people and those on low incomes.

Time Out

What do you do to relax?

It can be full-on at times, so time out is important. I enjoy cooking food, relaxing with Peter, reading a good book, listening to music (mostly classical) and cycling the Shropshire countryside.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I hardly ever watch it! It has to be a good drama, like Don't Ever Wipe Tears Without Gloves, or a really interesting documentary.

What was the last album or track you bought?

Jake Bugg, Shangri La. A friend bought me Queen Of Denmark by John Grant. Both great listening.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

Somewhere warm, quiet and fairly remote, with plenty of places to walk or cycle. I love Gascony in France.

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What's On
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THEATRE Gay teen love story Beautiful Thing takes to the stage in Birmingham

Jonathan Harvey's award-winning play, Beautiful Thing, is coming to the Birmingham Hippodrome in March 2015. The production will star EastEnders actors Charlie Brooks and Thomas Law.

Brooks, who played Janine Butcher in the hit BBC soap, and Law, who played Peter Beale, will be joined by Sam Thomas of Channel 4's hit teen drama Skins.

Beautiful Thing tells the story of teenager Jamie's relationship with classmate and neighbour, Ste.

Numerous well-known actors - among them Jonny Lee Miller, Suranne Jones, Hugh Bonneville, Philip Glennister, Andrew Garfield and Rhys Ifans - have appeared in the play during its 20-year history.

Productions have been mounted in countries across the world, including China, France, Canada, Australia and Holland.

Beautiful Thing runs at Birmingham Hippodrome's Patrick Centre from Monday 30 March to Saturday 11 April 2015.

The first 100 tickets at every performance are priced at an early bird rate of £25. To book, call 0844 338 5000 or visit birminghamhippodrome.com.

EDUCATION University of Birmingham aiming to put LGBTQ identities at the heart of its curriculum

The University of Birmingham is taking steps to ensure that its curriculum is inclusive towards those with LGBTQ identities.

Its new project will draw on current effective practice across the university to develop a guide for colleagues seeking to embed LGBTQ issues in all of the institution's academic disciplines.

Students have reported that interactions in lectures, seminars and laboratories are crucial to their experience.

Positive experiences which have been signposted include good staff role models and the use of case studies that acknowledge LGBTQ identities.

Nationally, LGBTQ students in higher education experience higher than average rates of drop out, use of student support services, mitigating circumstances (health and social problems) and suicide rates.

The two-year project at the University of Birmingham will explore the experiences of staff and students via a survey and local-level workshops. The project will support the work the university already undertakes around equality and diversity, with the institution fully committed as a Stonewall Diversity Champion.

Co-Project Leader Dr Nicola Gale, Lecturer in the Sociology of Health Care at the Health Services Management Centre, said: "For LGBTQ students, coming to university can be a really positive experience socially, with the opportunity to meet new people and, here at Birmingham, join the excellent student LGBTQ Association. However, we would like to ensure that this experience translates into the actual content of their courses."

Along with the production of best practice resources and workshops, those involved in the project hope to present their research at the university's prestigious Teaching and Learning Conference in 2015, as well as publish results in a peer-reviewed journal.

Findings from the study will also be shared nationally and internationally amongst colleagues at other research-intensive universities.

EVENT Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival 2014 hailed a success

Organisers of the 2014 Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival have hailed the three-day event 'a tremendous success'.

The annual festival, which showcases numerous LGBT films and shorts in Shrewsbury, this year saw a record turnout and featured two sell-out screenings.

Film directors and producers who visited the festival commented that the event was 'passionate, committed and enjoyable'.

Feedback from the audience was equally enthusiastic, praising the breadth and quality of the films, as well as the question-and-answer sessions that the producers and directors held. The festival's organisers are now working towards the event's tenth anniversary next year. Between now and then, there are screenings arranged for World AIDS Day and LGBT History Month, as well as plans to screen films around the county, with one planned for 28 January in Market Drayton.

SCENE New Brum home for popular gay club night So It Goes

Popular Birmingham club night So It Goes is set to switch venues this month.

The event, which has been a big success at Club Chic, is set to move to The Nightingale Club, and has big acts in mind to ensure it becomes even more popular.

Following the success of a Dance Arena festival back in August, So It Goes' organisers have secured the partnership with the Nightingale to increase the profile of the popular clubbing event.

LOCAL Paul Cottingham, partner of ex-West Midlands MEP Michael Cashman, loses his battle with cancer

Paul Cottingham, the partner of former West Midlands MEP Lord Michael Cashman, has died following a long battle with cancer.

Mr Cottingham, who had been Lord Cashman's partner for over two decades and his civil partner since 2006, was well known for his work with various organisations to further gay rights in the UK.

Many public figures, including Harriet Harman MP and ex-Coronation Street actor Charlie Condou, took to social media to pay tributes to Mr Cottingham, who was a staunch Labour supporter.

HEALTH Birmingham LGBT announces yoga and fitness classes

Local charity Birmingham LGBT is running autumn yoga and fitness classes for members of the gay community.

Hosted at the Birmingham LGBT Centre, the classes are small, supportive and take place in a safe space.

A Yoga Essentials course for body, mind and breath introduces simple relaxation exercises, equipping participants to progress to any other local class with confidence.

The six-week course takes place on Wednesday evenings between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, from 5 November till 10 December.

A second course, a mixed-ability fitness beginner class, covers typical activities offered in gym classes. Options include aerobics, body conditioning, cardio, circuits, abs/core stability and legs, bums and tums.

The six-week course takes place on Monday evenings from 6.30pm till 7.30pm, and runs until 1 December.

THEATRE Oscar Wilde's gay life explored in Birmingham play The Judas Kiss this month

David Hare's The Judas Kiss, a play examining the consequences of Oscar Wilde's uncompromisingly moral position on love and loyalty, is being presented in Birmingham this month.

In 1895, as a consequence of his relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas, Wilde is in danger of imprisonment for 'acts of gross indecency'. He must decide whether to stay in London and accept the outcome of a trial or to flee the country.

Two years later, the playwright is in exile in Italy, where another decision is made which affects the whole of his remaining life...

The Judas Kiss runs from 22 to 29 November at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham.

NATIONAL NEWS

RELIGION Four in ten Church of England clergy now support gay marriage

Four in ten Church of England clergy now support same-sex marriage, a poll has found.

PinkNews.co.uk reports: 'The research, conducted this summer by YouGov for the the Westminster Faith Debates, polled 1,500 members of the clergy. It found that despite the Church's official opposition to equal marriage, support is steadily growing among the ranks - with 39 percent agreeing that same-sex marriage is right.

'Fifty-one percent believe it is wrong, however, while 10 percent are still undecided on the issue.'

SPORT England's football manager admits he doesn't know what 'LGBT' stands for

England football manager Roy Hodgson has said he has no idea what the acronym 'LGBT' stands for.

Gay Star News reports: 'The 67-year-old has admitted to being 'naive' on the subject of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues in football.

'Speaking to Cambridge University Union, Hodgson was reportedly asked by a student where he stood on LGBT players in the game. He then asked the student what 'LGBT' meant. When he was told, he shrugged and said: "It's not my world".'

EMPLOYMENT UK guide to employers who are gay friendly is launched

Stonewall has launched the tenth edition of the Starting Out guide - Britain's national guide of gay-friendly employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual students and jobseekers.

Supported by Credit Suisse, the 2014 guide showcases 573 employers and Diversity Champions - 25 per cent more than in 2013 and the highest to date.

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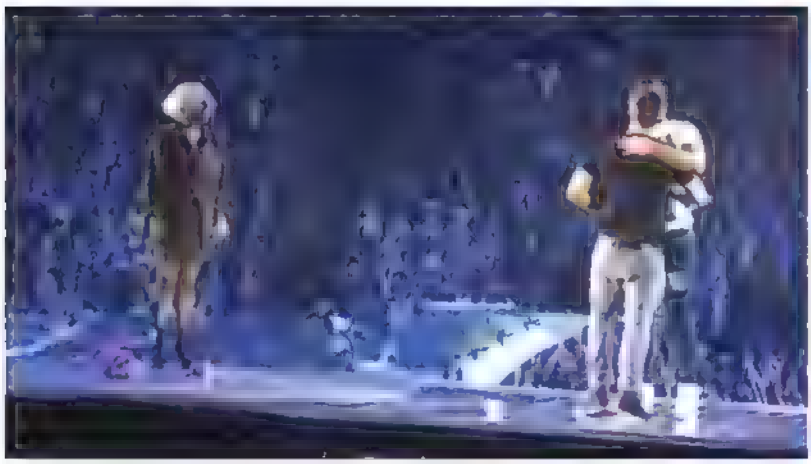
THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

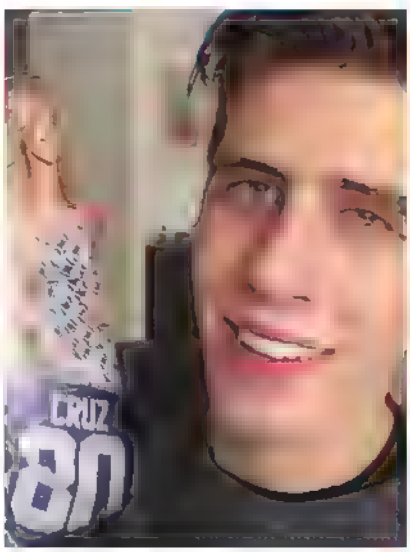
We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

WATCH THIS! The best video we've been watching this month...



Now this is cute! On her recent ArtRave tour in Manchester, Lady Gaga invites two guys up on stage, one of whom proposes to the other. It's lovely! Of course, Lady Gaga then bursts into song with Born This Way. Perfect! Watch it here: youtu.be/_TtrEh5IpQ

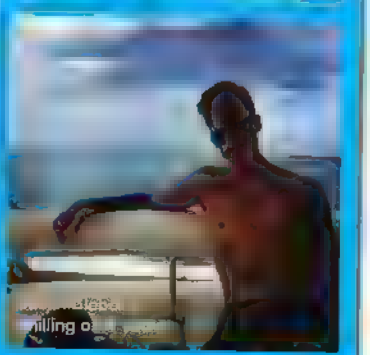
CHECK THIS OUT! Hilarious response to the gay blood ban - and ways to get around it!

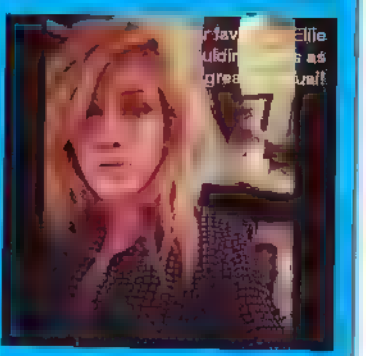


We're all aware of the draconian laws surrounding the use of blood donations from gay men. That's why one YouTuber, after being refused the chance to make a donation, has created a tongue-in-cheek video suggesting ways to stop being gay, so that you can donate! youtu.be/8e3cnOqQI-o

SNAP HAPPY!

Our favourite tweets from Instagram





GARY LUCY

THE HUNKY ACTOR GOES THE FULL MONTY IN WOLVES

"Well, if that's why they come to see it, then they get what they want - and you can't say fairer than that!"

Although a familiar face on television – having starred as Kyle Peacock in Footballers' Wives, DC Will Fletcher in The Bill and Danny Pennant in EastEnders – Gary Lucy is new to theatre work, recently making his stage debut in Simon Beaufoy's hit musical The Full Monty, which visits Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this month. Midlands Zone caught up with Gary to find out what audiences can expect.

You're making your stage debut with The Full Monty. What makes this particular production a good one on which to cut your teeth?

It's a feelgood show. The character I'm playing is really strong, it's a well-structured script and obviously there's the pay-off with the last scene. It was a great opportunity, and one that I certainly didn't want to miss.

You play the lead of Garry (Gaz), a role in which Robbie Carlyle made his mark. No pressure then…

Not really. I was just glad to be given the opportunity. This may be a comedy but the stories running through it are really strong, particularly Gaz's. He's feeling worthless because he doesn't have a job and might lose his son. His sole aim is to continue to see his boy, so he gets the guys together to make some money. What's been great so far is that the audience have been quiet when they've needed to be, through the more serious aspects, and have really got into the spirit of the piece and had a good night.

The show attracts a predominantly female audience, who can be quite rowdy at times. How does this affect your momentum as an actor?

Glasgow was just crazy. They absolutely went mad for it up there. But that's fine. We're there to entertain and make sure everyone's having a good time. It's better than having them sit there on their phones. For a first ever theatre experience, it's been fantastic for me. One that I'll never forget.

Is performing on stage everything you expected it to be?

I don't know quite what I expected, to be honest. It's completely different to anything I've ever done before. Even though I'm doing the same show every night, having a different audience with different reactions makes it feel like a completely different show.

What research did you do to help you prepare for the role?

I went to see it in the West End and spent some time with the director, Roger Paynes, and David of David Pugh Ltd, who have a fantastic track record with touring shows. We spoke about the character and about the role. I was given an information pack and just threw myself into it. That was it really.

Some of the other guys have spoken about having never danced before, and yet you all seem to be able to pull it off. How has that side of things been for you?

The beauty of it has been that we're not meant to be fantastic dancers with ripped-up muscles, so that means we can get away with it. Obviously there needs to be a journey from the beginning, where we're completely crap, to the end, where we're halfway decent. I think we do get to that point.

Surely that's quite a challenge in itself; an okay dancer having to pretend to be crap…

No, it isn't. I actually am a crap dancer.

So has performing in The Full Monty improved your dancing skills at all?

Well, if I can do that final routine, with the strip, and pass it off as half decent, then yes, I suppose it has.

Talking about the strip, how nervous were you initially about taking your kit off on stage?

It was quite a strange experience initially, but it's obviously a major part of the show. You have to make sure that you never fall out with the lighting guy, as he's got a huge responsibility in making sure everybody gets blinded by the spotlights at the end.

But as proven with the technical hitch in Manchester, where more was revealed than intended, he doesn't always get it right.

Apparently not.

Has your time on stage given you an appetite for more of the same in the future?

I've never made a conscious decision that my acting career would major on either TV or theatre. It's just the way the work's come in. As a first theatre experience, The Full Monty's been fantastic.

Within the play, has there been a particular scene which has proved more challenging than the rest?

Not really. I was just keen to build the relationship between Gaz and his son, because that's key to the story and it's important to get the audience on board with that journey. Getting on top of that, and making the boys who're playing my sons – we have four and they're all fantastic – feel as comfortable as possible, that's what's been key for me.

This is a big show and the audience are always very excited. How do you psyche yourself up for a performance?

I'm not that sort of person, really. I'm quite laid back, so I just make sure I'm mentally ready for it. I do still get nervous before I go on stage, though. I think it would be odd if I didn't.

Was acting always on the agenda for you?

No, it was something which I fell into. I'd always performed at school, but when I was a teenager, I did a show called Dream Team on Sky One. I then went back to do my A levels on my mum's say-so. I then got the role of Luke Morgan on Hollyoaks, and moved to Liverpool for four years. The rest, as they say, is history. I continue to learn and, hopefully, improve. The beauty of acting is that it's different every day.

You've always attracted a lot of female attention. How do you deal with that?

I don't take any notice, really. It was different back in the days of Hollyoaks. I was sixteen and yes, it was pretty crazy at times. Nowadays I don't really take too much notice. Manners cost nothing. I'm always polite and have time for people, and generally they're always okay with me.

Are you ever likely to return to EastEnders?

You never know what's around the corner, but no immediate plans.

We'll be seeing you in Casualty this month, but what else have you got lined up?

The Full Monty runs until May. It's pretty gruelling, so I'm just concentrating on getting to the end of the tour.

The Fully Monty is a very popular and entertaining show, but how would you respond to the cynics who say that, for a very high percentage of people, the sole reason for seeing it is to watch Gary Lucy get his kit off?

Well, if that's why they come to see it, then they get what they want – and you can't say fairer than that!

Especially if the lighting engineer isn't on form…

Exactly!

Gary Lucy stars in The Full Monty at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Mon 24 to Sat 29 November.

LA VOIX

THE BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT STAR'S ON A QUEST TO TAKE OVER EUROPE!

After winning numerous awards for her hugely successful drag show, La Voix entered Britain's Got Talent, where this year she made it all the way through to the semi-finals. Now, after a residency at Birmingham's Eden Bar, she's hoping to 'go global' and conquer Europe by representing the UK at next year's Eurovision Song Contest. Midlands Zone Editor Ryan Humphreys sits down with her to find out more...

Tell me about your musical background, La Voix...

I went to university and did a drama degree then did a postgraduate music course. I've been interested in the theatre and singing since I was about 16. I worked for a long time as an actor but was also a make-up artist. Then I put the two together and became a drag queen. It was so much more successful for me than my acting work and that's how I've ended up doing what I'm doing today.

You've worked with some great people and in some fantastic shows. What have been your highlights?

I think one of the most interesting was when I was the make-up artist for Pamela Anderson for about five years. That was really interesting. I got to meet some amazing people and found myself in some equally amazing situations. To be in that high-end celebrity world was surreal. Other highlights include things like pantomime. I did panto with Cilla Black, and that was another amazing experience - probably not for her, but for me it was. I'd grown up with her on the telly and then, all of a sudden, there she was on stage next to me.

How long have been a drag artist?

Coming up to about ten years now. I did about six or seven years down at Madame Jojo's on a Saturday night. It's only really been the last two years that I've worked on the cabaret scene. It wasn't until I entered Drag Idol that it became a full-time thing and I haven't looked back.

How long has La Voix been a part of your life?

About three or four years. The whole concept is quite new. I wanted to present something that was a little bit different, but not so far removed that it wasn't accepted. I'm not in any way a cutting-edge act, in fact, I'm quite old school. I just felt like drag had gone quite grungy and 'hen and stag night', compared to America. I just wanted to bring back some of the glamour. It's been interesting how the gay scene has embraced it. I think it was ready for something new. If we had a UK version of RuPaul's Drag Race, it'd be brilliant for the drag industry. It'd shake everything up.

Who inspired you when you were growing up?

I've always been a massive Liza Minnelli fan. Not for her songs, just for her style of performing - she does it with raw energy. She can work an audience like there's no tomorrow. It sounds a bit cliche to say Liza Minnelli, Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand but I have the gayest father, who used to have the biggest Barbra Streisand collection, so I've always been inspired by strong vocalists and anyone who can belt out a tune.

Tell us a bit about your show.

My show tries to be very glamorous and very high finish. It's a mixture of good old-fashioned, belting show tunes, big diva songs and vocal impersonations. I adore doing Cher. It's very old school camp, but with a new-found energy.

Do you write shows as a whole or are they a continuous development?

Oh it's definitely a continuous development. When you're working weekly on the gay scene, especially at residencies, you've got to change it and keep moving forward. Even a year on, I look back and realise just how different the show is. People on the gay scene let you know what they want. The way they react will tell you whether or not you'll still be singing a song in six months' time. Sometimes you'll rehearse a song that you think will be a hit with the audiences, only to find it falls flat on its face. I'm constantly evolving the show on the stage, as opposed to in a rehearsal room.

You reached the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent this year. What made you want to audition?

That was the most amazing experience. It was actually my third time of auditioning. I got quite far after my first audition, but the next time I didn't do so well. I didn't get through to the 'reveal' stage. I wasn't going to do it again, but the producers came to see me at the Two Brewers and persuaded me to try again. I'm so glad I did, because I love pushing myself and I want to make drag a bit more mainstream. I'm interested to see if drag has a commercial market nowadays, like it did with Lily Savage. Every step of that Britain's Got Talent journey was a great experience and one which has changed my life.

Did you think you'd receive such a positive reaction?

No, not at all. You do those shows and worry about whether, when they edit it down, you'll make it into one of those montages of the bad auditions. I was just shocked every step of the way. I didn't know what to expect. I've had no trolling or bad comments about it either so I've been very lucky.

Who was your favourite judge?

I had a bit of a girl crush on Amanda Holden. I think she's absolutely stunning. I think the one who really supported me was David Walliams. He was just adorable every step of the way. I think they both love the drag thing and a bit of camp.

Were you disappointed that you didn't win Britain's Got Talent? Or are you using it as a springboard for your career?

Even on the day of the semi-final I was so grateful that I'd gotten that far. It didn't even enter my head that myself and the London Gay Big Band would get into the final. We just enjoyed the whole day. We never expected to get so far, so we were determined to enjoy it. It was a wonderful experience.

You've won numerous awards, too - including Drag Idol. Now you're bidding to represent the United Kingdom in the Eurovision Song Contest. Why?

I'm just enjoying the journey massively. All these awards are a great boost - not just for me but for the entire cabaret world. It's great to feel recognised for all the work you put in. I'm ambitious and determined. A lot of people ask me about the Eurovision Song Contest and whether I'm just copying Conchita Wurst. Absolutely I am! I've seen where she's working and where she's travelling. I'm not copying her in any way creatively, though. It's a singing competition and I love singing. I'm looking forward to seeing how far we can push it.

You've touched on it briefly, but do you think the success of Conchita Wurst in this year's Song Contest will mean every country is going to send a drag act of some description?

Could you imagine?! I wouldn't be surprised if it becomes the Eurovision Drag Contest. I think there'll certainly be far more contenders, and I'd love to see more drag queens go up for it. I think it's great that we can get it out there and show that drag isn't scary or intimidating. I think what Conchita did was amazing. I've not really been a big follower of Eurovision, but after seeing what she did, I've become a fan.

Your Eurovision song has been written by a group of industry professionals from the Midlands. What's it about?

It's a very quirky song; it's unique. It's very high camp and kitsch. It's got a bit of a vintage feel to it. It's one of those songs that you'll love for the first ten times and then you'll probably never want to hear it again! They've done a great job on it. When they sent it through, it was so much better than I expected. It's the first song I've ever had written for me, so it's been a great experience.

Lastly, you perform a lot in Birmingham. What do you think of the city and its LGBT community?

I've had an incredibly warm reception from Birmingham. I've been in residency at Eden Bar and the city's gay community have really embraced me. They bring things to the show that not even I think of! They turn up with La Voix masks and wigs. They're fantastic, and there's a real community feel. If they like something, they'll let you know. If they don't, they'll let you know. It's really helpful.

You can catch La Voix at **Eden Bar, Birmingham**, on Sat 15, Thurs 27 & Sat 29 November.

Birmingham's festival of queer arts and culture makes a welcome return in 2014...

Birmingham LGBT's hugely popular and successful SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture returns this month - offering a great selection of comedy, arts, cabaret and literature

Since 2009, the SHOUT Festival has presented the best in Queer arts, theatre, comedy performance, talks and more. There's even a counterpart film festival, which is highly attended and hugely successful in its own right. Neil Anderson, the Steering Group Chair of SHOUT Festival said, "This is SHOUT's sixth year, and over that time we've witnessed a gradual shift around integration of LGBT and Queer culture as it further becomes integrated into mainstream popular culture. As a result of this, the debate we always come back to at SHOUT is that of 'is there a need for stand alone festival activity?'

"Our answer to that question has always been, and remains, a resounding Yes! SHOUT enables all audiences to connect with artists addressing LGBT themes that resonate with all those audiences.

"This month you'll be able to explore new work and new venues, as well as revisit some previous festival favourites. As always, our thanks goes to our funders and our partners - and to you, the audience."

Take a look here at some of the four-day festival's highlights, or visit www.shoutfestival.co.uk for a full programme of events.

ONLY ON SUNDAYS & DOROTHY TOWERS

Friday 14 November, 8pm & Saturday 15 November, 6pm
The REP Theatre, Birmingham

The REP Theatre in Birmingham presents a special double-bill of shows as part of the SHOUT Festival.

ONLY ON SUNDAYS

In 1975 two footballers kissed on TV. Millions watched, most in hatred, a very small few in celebration.

In a world fuelled by bedpost notches and 'Fat Girl Rodeo', the biggest lad's lad in town suddenly falls in love. But before he can accept the truth, he must first confront his own fears and prejudices.

Only On Sundays is a funny, sad story about searching for acceptance, finding truth, and losing morality in machismo.

DOROTHY TOWERS

A group of LGBT residents from the city centre tower blocks known as Dorothy Towers share their memories, experiences and stories of LGBT life in Birmingham in a workshop performance using art, song, dance and text. Directed by Bethan Marlow, Dorothy Towers will give the residents a unique opportunity to have their voices heard in a raw, colourful and dynamic way.

Booking Required. £12 / £9 concessions.

FIERCE & FABULOUS CABARET

Thursday 13 November, 8pm, mac Birmingham

This high-energy gay comedy cabaret extravaganza features the best and the brightest from Britain's alternative stand-up, musical comedy and drag scenes. The comedy event of the season, suitable for anyone who enjoys a rowdy, informal party atmosphere

This big-ass party show is hosted by comedians Dana Alexander (Russell Howard's Good News) and Jonathan Mayor (BBC Radio), with Allyson Smith, Iszi Lawrence and Tom Allen. Prepare yourself for Drag battles and debauchery, because this is a line-up sure to impress. Not for the faint of heart!

Booking Required. £10 / £8 concessions.

WALKING: HOLDING

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 November, 15 minute slots between 11am-1pm and 3pm-5pm.

The Library of Birmingham

A woman with a shaved head takes your hand in the station. A large man dressed in black follows you down an alley. A six-foot drag queen walks you past a church.

This performance involves one audience member at a time being taken on a walk around a city, whilst holding hands with a series of different people. It is a unique and, at times, challenging experience. Booking required.

POLARI

Saturday 15 November, 7:30pm-9pm, mac Birmingham

London's award-winning LGBT literary salon began life in November 2007 in the upstairs room of a bar in Soho and is now held monthly at the Southbank Centre. Championed by Sarah Waters as "always fun, always thought-provoking", Polari won LGBT Cultural Event Of The Year in the Co-op Respect Awards 2013.

Hosted by author Paul Burston, this special session for Shout Festival features performances from author and comedian VG Lee (Always You, Edna), poet Keith Jarrett, author Fanny Gapper and more. The event is part of a Polari National Tour funded by Arts Council England.

Booking Required. £5 / £2.50 concessions.

MY COMEDY

Sunday 16 November, 7pm-9:30pm, Eden, Birmingham

Performing at a special MY Comedy show alongside resident MC Maureen Younger ("more than compere, more than host" - gingerbeer.co.uk) will be Barbara Nice ("Imagine a hybrid between Mrs Merton and Victoria Wood" - The Times), Ben Brister ("Gorgeously talented" - Time Out) and Julie Jepson ("Intelligent stand-up that is instantly engaging" - bbc.co.uk).

Booking Required. £9 / £7 concessions

Other SHOUT Events / Diary

13 Nov	Fierce & Fabulous Cabaret Comedy / £10/£8	mac
14-15 Nov	Only on Sundays & Dorothy Towers Performance £12/£9	The REP Theatre
15 Nov	Walking Holding Performance Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Love Letters & Lehman Brothers Visual Arts / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Bards & Books Literary Panel Literature / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	A Rose by Any Other Talk/Workshops / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Statistics Unavailable Literature / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	No Outsiders Literature / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	The Boys Who Play With Girls Performances / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Poet and a Performance Artist Performance / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Tom Marshman - Living Off Bread Alone Performance / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Jude Sandoval - Performance Poet Film/Media / £7.40/£5	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Music / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	DRAG Punk Band Music / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Faye Bagley Music / Free	Library of Birmingham
15 Nov	Polari Workshop Talk/Workshops / Free	Birmingham LGBT Centre
15 Nov	Polari Literature / £5/£2.50	mac
16 Nov	MY Comedy Comedy / £9/£7	Eden Bar

For more information about the sixth annual SHOUT Festival, and to see the full programme of events, visit

www.shoutfestival.co.uk

NATIONAL
HIV
22-30
2014
TESTING
WEEK
I'm
testing
Jimmy
Get tested and join the thousands of people making a difference.
Order a free postal test or find where to test at:
StartsWithMe.org.uk
Terrence Higgins Trust
startswithme
@startswith_me
#ImTesting
IT STARTS
WITH
ME

World AIDS Day: It's time for Education, Reflection & Celebration

World AIDS Day 2013 in Birmingham

World AIDS Day 2013 in Leicester

AIDS first came to light some 33 years ago. World AIDS Day (Monday 1 December), now in its 27th year, is dedicated to raising people's awareness of HIV AIDS across the globe.
The global health day was the first of its kind and came about as a result of the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Ever since then, governments, charities, non-government organisations and international groups have implemented numerous campaigns which combine globally every 1 December. The whole concept is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. It is estimated that more than 34 million people worldwide are living with HIV, including over two million children. In the UK, around 100,000 people are living with the virus, and the rate of infection continues to rise each year.

The Midlands has always taken a proactive role in promoting the day, with numerous health organisations and charities hitting the streets of the region's towns and cities to talk about H.V, AIDS, sexual health and the need to break down the stigma attached to the virus.

There are numerous World AIDS Day events, celebrations, vigils and services being held in early December, a guide to which can be found on page 19. Here are some of the highlights:

AN EVENING OF REFLECTION, EDUCATION AND CELEBRATION

Taking place on Monday 1 December from 7pm at St Philip's Cathedral in Birmingham, the event, which features music, speeches and candle lighting, offers a chance for members of the city's LGBT community and beyond to reflect and celebrate the lives of those who've been lost to the virus over the years. A truly poignant evening that shouldn't be missed.

TIE A RED RIBBON FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

This event takes place at the Library of Birmingham on Saturday 29 November (10am - 4pm). Everyone is invited. The occasion is an opportunity for those in attendance to share their words, thoughts and messages on red ribbons. People will be invited to tie these messages to the railings of the Library's Amphitheatre to show their support for World AIDS Day.

RED RIBBON PARTY

This more lighthearted event is being held by popular Birmingham gay bar Sidewalk on Saturday 29 November. The bar is encouraging its diverse and party-going clientele to wear 'racy red' for the night and donate a couple of quid to charity.

TRADE'S RED RIBBON REMEMBRANCE EVENING

Over in Leicester, LGBT sexual health charity Trade is hosting a Red Ribbon Remembrance evening on Monday 1 December. The event, which aims to raise awareness of HIV testing, features music from the Leicestershire Rainbow Voices choir, inspirational readings and personal testimonies from members of the LGBT community.

Special World AIDS Day screening of Test: The Movie

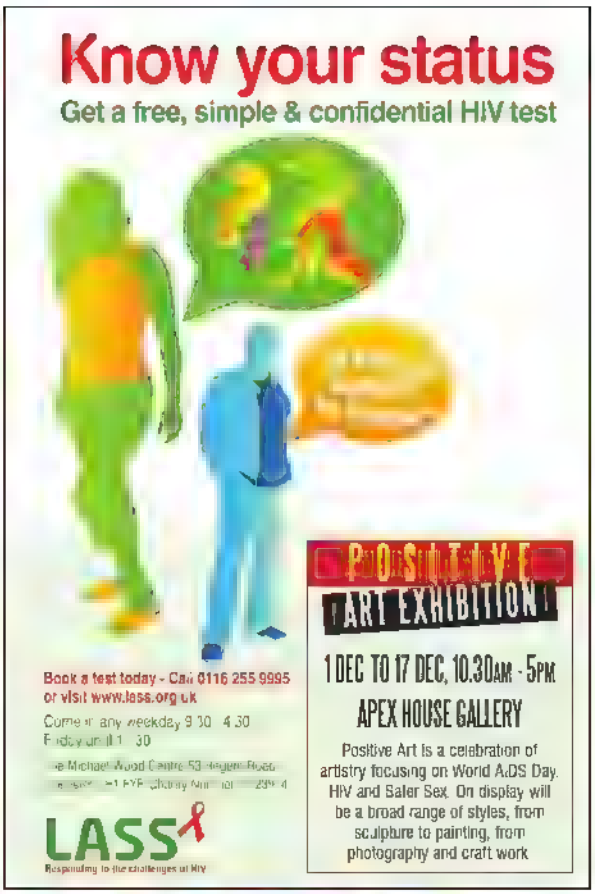
Over in Shropshire, the folks behind the highly successful Rainbow Film Festival are hosting a special World AIDS Day screening of the award winning film, Test.

Set in 1985, the film focuses on Frankie, the new understudy for an up-and-coming San Francisco-based modern dance company. Bad boy Todd, a handsome and established dancer, watches Frankie with interest. As the attraction to one another quickly grows, the pair realise they want to be more than just friends.

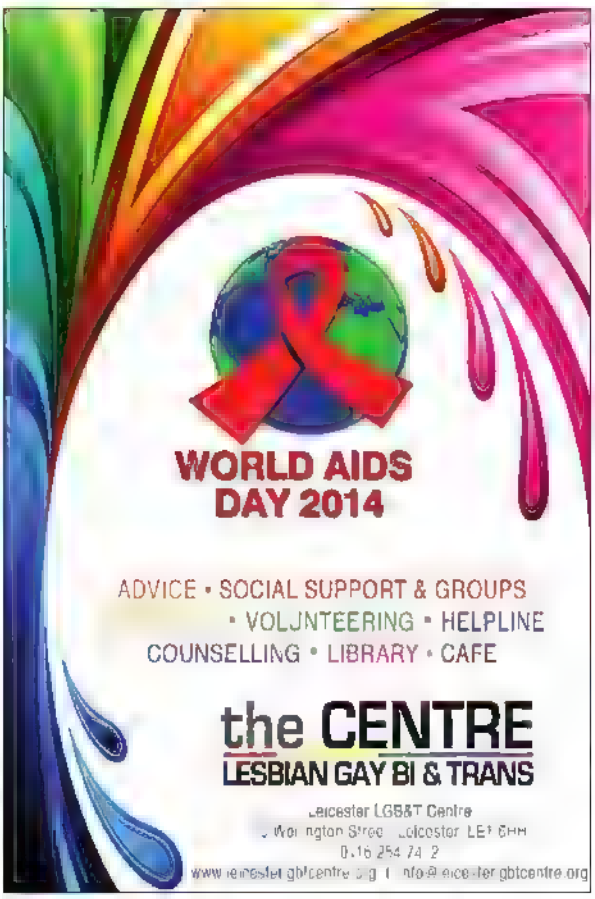
When one of the dancers is injured, Frankie gets the chance to perform in his place. It's the opportunity of a lifetime - but is Frankie good enough? Outside of work, Frankie and Todd's relationship deepens. Together they face a new kind of test, as a disease spreads across the city. Very few know anything about it - except who it targets... But as the pair quickly learn to navigate a world filled with risk, they also find plenty of reason to feel hopeful.

With sensitive performances, an upbeat '80s soundtrack and electrifying dance sequences, Test is a compelling drama that lovingly recreates gay life in 1980s San Francisco.
Test: The Movie shows at The Hive, Shrewsbury, on Monday 1 December at 8pm. For more information and tickets, visit www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk

WORLD AIDS DAY
December 1st 2014
Throughout November 2014, Summit House Support will be raising awareness of HIV and providing free, confidential and fast HIV testing across the Dudley Borough
1 in 20 gay and bisexual men in the UK have HIV
Check out the link to find out where you can get tested:
www.shsl.org.uk/get-tested/
or call us on
01384 243220
for more information
When did you last get TESTED?
SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT
DO THE RESPONSIBLE THING..... GET TESTED!
info@shsl.org.uk
summit_house


Know your status
Get a free, simple & confidential HIV test
Book a test today - Call 0116 255 9995
or visit www.lass.org.uk
ART EXHIBITION
1 DEC TO 17 DEC, 10.30AM - 5PM
APEX HOUSE GALLERY
Positive Art is a celebration of artistry focusing on World AIDS Day, HIV and Safer Sex. On display will be a broad range of styles, from sculpture to painting, from photography and craft work
LASS

World AIDS Day
@the
Lion Bar & Club
Free & Confidential
Sexual Health Screening
Saturday
29 November
Syphilis, Gonorrhoea
& Chlamydia screening
Hep B, Hep C & HIV tests
9pm ~ 11pm
you do not have to be Gay, Male or live in Walsall to take advantage of this service
Walsall HIV Team 07736 124 445
morriscolin@walsall.gov.uk
Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41


WORLD AIDS DAY 2014
ADVICE • SOCIAL SUPPORT & GROUPS
• VOLUNTEERING • HELPLINE
COUNSELLING • LIBRARY • CAFE
the CENTRE
LESBIAN GAY BI & TRANS

World AIDS Day events in your area

BIRMINGHAM

HIV TESTING WEEK
Saturday 22 - Sunday 30 November
As part of National HIV Testing Week, Healthy Gay Life will be offering free HIV testing on five separate occasions. Sat 22 Nov (1 4pm), Wed 26 Nov (7 10pm), Thurs 27 Nov (9pm-1am), Fri 28 Nov (2 5pm) and Sat 29 Nov (1 4pm)
HGL, 146 Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham

LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM
Saturday 22 - Sunday 30 November
For the duration of National H V Testing Week and World AIDS Day the Library of Birmingham will be lit up red.
The Library of Birmingham, Birmingham

WORLD AIDS DAY WORKSHOPS
Saturday 22 November & Saturday 29 November
Two workshops are being held to raise awareness for HIV and World AIDS Day. The workshops consist of a photo shoot, graffiti messages onto giant HIV letters, loom band and ribbon making. The workshops take place from 10am to 4pm on both days. Everyone welcome
The Library of Birmingham, Birmingham

TIE A RED RIBBON FOR WAD
Saturday 29 November
Everyone will be invited to share their words, thoughts and messages on red ribbons and tie these to the railings of the Library amphitheatre.
The Library of Birmingham, Birmingham

RED RIBBON PARTY
Saturday 29 November
Popular Birmingham gay bar Sidewalk is hosting a Red Ribbon Party to raise awareness of World AIDS Day. They're encouraging customers to wear racy red
Sidewalk, Birmingham

EVENING OF REFLECTION, EDUCATION & CELEBRATION
Monday 1 December
An evening of music, speeches and 'time to remember', to educate, reflect and celebrate
St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

LEICESTER

POSITIVE ART EXHIBITION
Tuesday 25 November - Thursday 18 December
A celebration of artistry focusing on World AIDS Day. HIV and safer sex. A broad range of styles are in evidence, including sculpture, painting and photography
Apex House Gallery, Leicester

HIV HERE & NOW
Thursday 27 November
A short workshop looking at how knowledge of HIV has developed since its discovery
Trade Sexual Health, Leicester

RED RIBBON REMEMBRANCE EVENING
Monday 1 December
Music from the Leicestershire Rainbow Voices, inspirational readings and personal testimonies from members of the LGBT community - all whilst raising awareness of HIV testing.
A City Centre Location TBC, Leicester

SHROPSHIRE

TEST: THE MOVIE SCREENING
Monday 1 December
The Rainbow Film Festival will be hosting a special World AIDS Day screening of the award-winning film, Test. See page 17 for more information
The Hive, Shrewsbury

ABplus

ABplus is a member led service for people living with HIV.

SERVICES FOR MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- Monday & Fridays there is an open access providing Fareshare (food-bank), peer support, a meal at lunchtime and one to one support
- Access to support from Freshwinds, Red Cross, Terrence Higgins Trust and Barnardos at ABplus
- Referrals and signposting to other support services and social care
- Peer support groups for men, women living with HIV
- Support for respite breaks and opportunities for personnal development via training and workshops

For further details call 0121 622 6471 or email@abplus.org.uk

Opportunities for volunteering and training

To make a donation please TEXT ABPL45 to 70070

29/30 Lower Essex Street, Birmingham B5 6SN

Charity No. 1065191 Registered in England No. 3346794

SHROPSHIRE RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

With sensitive performances, an upbeat 80's soundtrack and electrifying dance sequences, TEST is a compelling drama that lovingly recreated gay life in 1980's San Francisco

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER AT 8PM

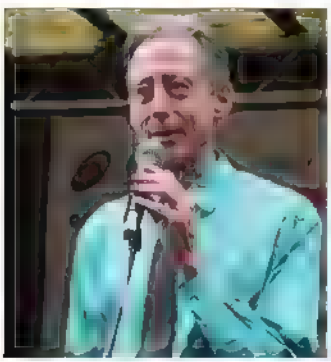
HIVE

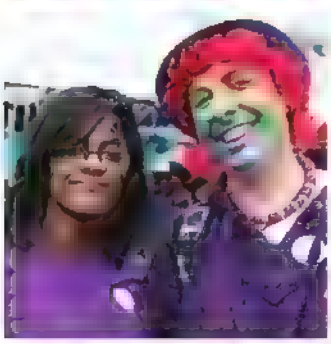
5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE.

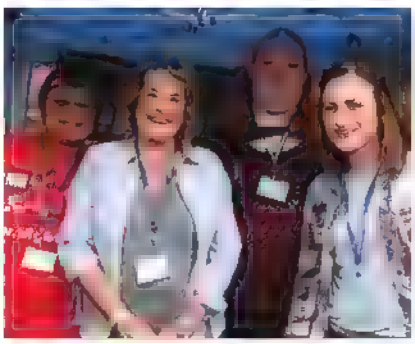
Tickets £5 / £4 conce available online www.hiveonline.org.uk / www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk or Tel: 01743 234970 or at the door

Wolves Pride hailed 'biggest and best yet' by organisers

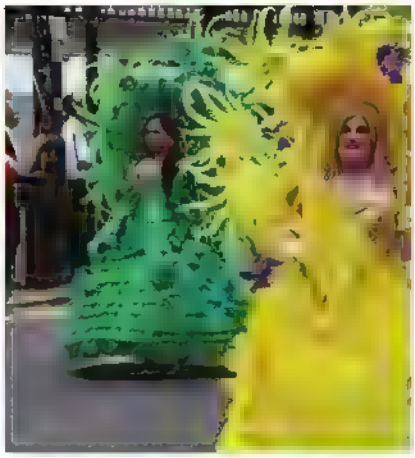
The end of September saw the third annual Wolverhampton Pride take the city by storm, with organisers hailing it the biggest and best yet. The event was officially opened by the city's mayor and Peter Tatchell, the patron of LGBT Network. A bright and colourful parade through the city streets was followed by a whole host of entertainment throughout the day including X Factor's Lucy Spraggan







WWW.WOLVESPRIDE



victim support

victim support

Terrence Higgins Trust

WOLVERHAMPT
A group for lesbian

CHECK this out...

01 **Navy Tartan Long Sleeve Shirt**

Checks are still a key look, and this navy tartan option will make sure your casual style is looking up to date
£30
www.topman.com

02 **Green Tartan Longline Shirt**

This green and navy check shirt has a slimmer body shape and a longer length, making it ideal for layering
£32
www.topman.com

03 **Jack Wills Gatesheath Jumper with Block Colour**

A slim-fit checked flannel shirt with press-studs down the front and breast pockets with a flap and press-stud
£30
www.hm.com

04 **Navy Holloway Road Shirt**

The style staple that never fails, this navy check Holloway Road shirt has a contrast pop of orange
£45
www.river island.com

05 **Navy Check Long Sleeve Shirt**

It's impossible to have too many check shirts in your wardrobe, and this navy, red and white version is exceptionally stylish
£28
www.riverisland.com

BCNÜ
UTILITY WEAR
CZ
clonezone
36 - 38 Sackville Street, M1 3WA
54 Hurst Street, B5 4TD
www.clonezone.co.uk

01 Extending Round Glass Coffee Table Magic This elegant contemporary glass coffee table by Greenapple has two rotating glass tops on a stainless steel base, making for a unique, attractive and practical extending coffee table for your living room. **£599**
www.4living.co.uk

02 Glass & Walnut TV Unit This contemporary glass & walnut TV unit is ideal for all flat screens up to 50 inches and your Sky and DVD players fit neatly into the walnut centre **£875**
www.4living.co.uk

03 Blue Tulips Elegantly charismatic, Blue Tulips shows us a different side of conventional flower depiction. With supple blue hues, sweeping lines and a watercolour effect, the flowers seem to flow across the frame of this painting creating an air of calmness, relaxation and beauty **£77**
www.urbanroad.com.au

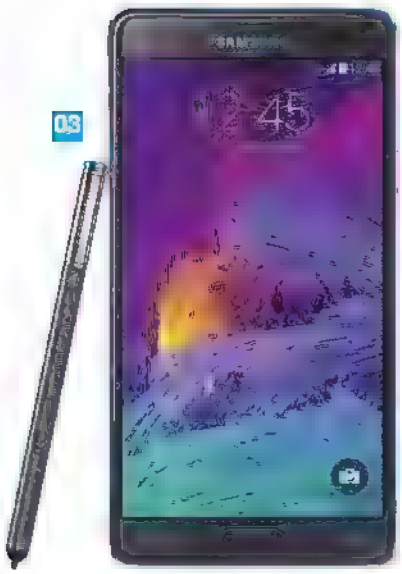
04 Glass Lamp Table This unique contemporary table is the perfect occasional piece for the modern home it's made in Italy from the finest polished and toughened clear 12mm glass. **£320**
www.4living.co.uk

05 Arcisi Murano Vases These Arcisi Murano Vases affirm the perfect balance between quality and style, passion and tradition
www.natuzzi.co.uk

06 Royal Blue Bubble Lifestyle: Blue Bubble Chair, Eames Side Table Eero Aarnio Style Bubble Chair Gustavo Acrylic and metal, cashmere or wool cushions. H170 x W106 x D107cm Eero Aarnio Style Side Table "Vito" **£586**
www.outtherelnteriors.com

07 Pylon Cushion in Alumina Blue Featuring the recognisable silhouette of the modern-day electricity pylon, with its steel geometric forms. **£60 each**
www.in-spaces.com

GET YOUR GEEK ON!



01 Apple IMac with Retina 5k Display

The 27-inch iMac with Retina 5K display features a breath-taking 14.7 million pixel dis-play – so text appears sharper than ever, videos are unbeliev-ably lifelike, and you can see new levels of detail in your photos.

From £1,999

www.apple.com/uk

02 Apple IPad Air 2

iPad Air 2 is the thinnest and most powerful iPad ever. Touch ID gives iPad Air 2 and iPad mini 3 users a simple and secure way to unlock iPad with just the touch of a finger, plus the ability to au-thenticate within apps to bet-ter protect logins and data.

From £399

www.apple.com/uk

03 Samsung Galaxy Note 4

The new Samsung Galaxy Note 4 is bigger and better than its previous iteration. A stunning 5.7" Quad HD Super AMOLED display and power-ful front and rear cameras mean you'll be able to create works of art! Plus, with the lat-est S Pen included, you can write and draw more naturally and precisely.

£629

www.samsung.com/uk

04 Google Nexus 6

The all-new Google Nexus 6 features a pixel-rich 6" Quad HD display, perfect for getting work done, playing games and watching movies. It also features dual front-facing speakers, providing immer-sive stereo sound. Oh, and it runs the latest version of An-droid – 5.0 Lollipop, too.

£TBC

www.google.com/nexus

05 Apple Mac mini

With its sleek aluminium de-sign, a removable bottom panel for easy access to memory, and a space-saving built-in power supply, Mac mini is pretty incredible. It fea-tures high-performance graphics that make it up to two times faster than before.

From £399

www.apple.com/uk

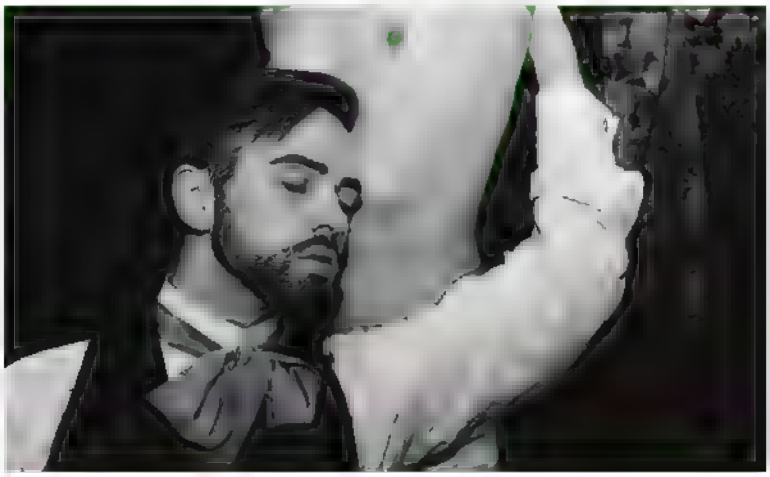
WIN!

WIN! Tickets to Judas Kiss

In 1895, as a consequence of his relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas, the legendary playwright Oscar Wilde is in danger of imprisonment for 'acts of gross indecency'. He must decide whether to stay in London and accept the risk of jail or flee the country.

Two years later, Wilde is in exile in Italy where another decision is made which affects the whole of his remaining life...

Judas Kiss shows at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham from Sat 22 to Sat 29 November. We've snagged 10 pairs of tickets to give away! Answer this question to enter:



Oscar Wilde was best known...

A) As a playwright
B) For looking like Stephen Fry
C) For his big nose

Competition closes on 12 November

Visit www.midlandszone.co.uk to enter!

www.jdlforleather.co.uk

VISIT THIS WEBSITE FOR OUR RANGE OF QUALITY LEATHER CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES, HEAVY STEEL BONDAGE AND OUR AROMAS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES.

FOR A FREE CATALOGUE CALL +44 (0) 7774 254530
EMAIL: jdlforleather@hotmail.co.uk
OR DOWNLOAD A COPY FROM OUR WEBSITE.

crescent

THE JUDAS KISS

DAVID HARE

CONTAINS NUDITY

Everyone thinks they know Oscar Wilde... Judas Kiss is a moving play which examines the man himself and the relationship with his lover Bosie.

22-29 NOVEMBER 2014
STUDIO

brindleyplace birmingham / 0121 643 5858 / crescent-theatre.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL [illegible]

SCENE

NOVEMBER 2014

Michelle Visage

THE RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE JUDGE HITS BIRMINGHAM

INSIDE...

CHRIS MEARS
The hot and hunky Olympic diver takes to the decks in the Midlands

LA VOIX
The Britain's Got Talent star returns to Birmingham for three intimate shows

WORLD AIDS DAY FUNDRAISERS
Raise money for a good cause at gay bars and clubs across the Midlands

EVERY MONDAY

Fabulous

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

SANDRA

THE WHORE OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH

FREE ENTRY
B4 11PM

DRINKS FROM £1

9PM-3AM!

C:21

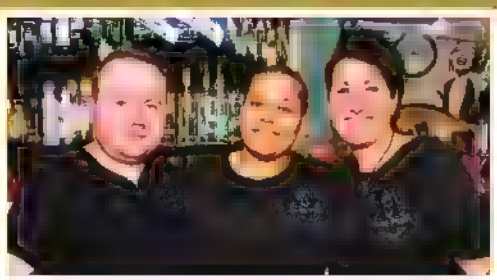
MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

GLITTER LIPS

16-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE. TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

Every night is ladies' night at **The Fox**!

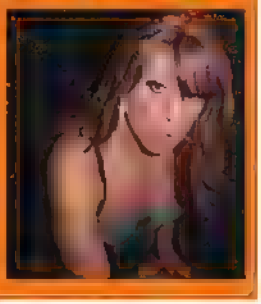
The Fox in Birmingham is the best place for the girls to hang out on the city's gay scene. The boys are very welcome too, of course, at a venue that's well known and much loved for its ever-vibrant atmosphere.
So why not pop in and say hi to Heidi and the team? A top night of fun and games in the company of Brum's best gals awaits.



SANDRA

Monday nights at C:21 nightclub in Shrewsbury are one of the biggest and best gay nights in the West Midlands! The first Monday of every month sees the popular venue hosting live cabaret, with this month's spot being filled by the one and only Sandra - the whore of Hampstead

Not only that, but you can also take advantage of cheap drinks starting at just £1 all night long! You'd be mad to miss it - it's a great night out!



2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

When you've finished work for the day, instead of heading straight home, why not pop into The Loft Lounge in Birmingham for a cheeky cocktail or two? Selected cocktails are two-for-one all day and night between Sunday and Friday! Boooom!

ONE POUND DRINKS AT SIDEWALK

Birmingham's popular Sidewalk bar on Hurst Street brings you Pounded each and every Monday. From 6pm onwards, you can get your hands on drinks from £1. Spirits, beer, bottles - you name it, it's on offer!

SIDEWALK -

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12 6pm. Delicious new menu
SIDEWALK

MINISTRY OF POUND AT MISSING

Join the one and only DJ Mike Emery every Monday night at Missing Bar in Birmingham for a night of great music that'll get you in the party mood! Not only that, there's a top selection of drinks available from just £1! What a bargain!

MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am
MISSING BAR

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Cash prizes and free drinks. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED Come and get Pounded from 6pm onwards. £1 on selected spirits. £1.50 Jagerbomb / Carling / Strongbow Sambucca.
SIDEWALK

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs

BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS

BAR

FABULOUS - *Mon 3 Nov* - Cabaret with Sandra. Drinks from just £1

CHILL NIGHT
THREE FURNACES TELFORD

CHILL OUT NIGHT

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

2 TILL 2

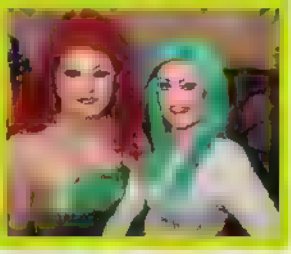
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO
NOTTINGHAM

TUESDAY 4 11 18 25 NOVEMBER

TACKY TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday Charlotte the Harlotte and Miss Penny host a great night of fun and games at The Village Inn in Birmingham. The concept is simple - two drag queens, a big wheel to spin, plenty of prizes (including free drinks!) and a lot of tack. We urge you to pop down and check it out. You certainly won't be disappointed!



90's NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am

GO BACK IN TIME WITH '90s NIGHT

The 1990s - the decade when we were introduced to the Spice Girls and many more fantastic pop groups. Relive it by heading to The Nightingale's '90s night. You'll love it for sure!

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two

THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12 6pm Delicious new menu

MIS-SING KARAOKE With your host James Party starts at 9pm till late

TACKY TUESDAYS with Charlotte and Miss Penny Songs Games & Prizes Happy Hour 12noon-10pm.

THE VILLAGE INN

TWO MEALS FOR £10

If you're looking for a meal before your night out, then look no further than Sidewalk in Birmingham. They have a cracking 'two meals for a tenner' menu - great for you and a mate!

TUNE UP TUESDAY Fun & Game... 10pm...

BIG TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY Qu...

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

CAMP QUIZ ...th free buffet Q... ...s & Bur...

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY Weekly day-friend ...ight with D... ...m pop & hip hop ...

VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT A twist of awesome fun...

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

MISS DOLLY MIXTURES Pa... [...

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

RAINBOWS.

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm til 2am ...

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CHILL OUT NIGHT Free Pool 6pm...

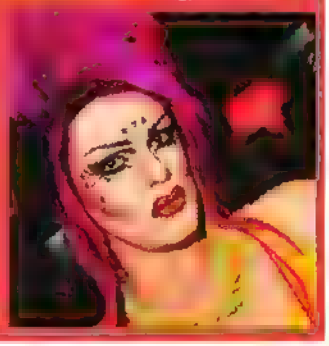
GAMES NIGHT Free ... ntendo Wii from 8pm

DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

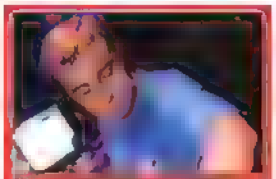
... 5 12 19 26 NOVEMBER

GRAB THE MIC with Charlotte the Harlotte at The Village Inn

If you think you've got a singing voice to rival Beyonce, Ellie Goulding or Gary Barlow, then pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show it off to Charlotte the Harlotte and DJ Deano. Whilst you may not walk away with a multi-million pound recording contract with Simon Cowell you can walk away with a sense of pride - well, or embarrassment, depending on how you've done!



THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM



IT'S ... AT MISSING

Missing Bar in Birmingham certainly knows how to throw an awesome party, regardless of which day of the week it is! Pop in for a night of top fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mike Emery and the rest of the venue's team.

C FACTOR - with Charlotte the Harlotte

THE VILLAGE INN

DADDY'S DEMS AND FATS POOL ...

THE FOX

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Hosted ...

WEDNESDAY LINE ...ne D...

THE WELLINGTON

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shake your tail feathers at Sidewalks new 2 for 1 cocktail menu

SIDEWALK

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two

THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery

MISSING BAR

IT'S COCKTAIL TIME AT SIDEWALK!

Rather than heading out for a pint or a double vodka and Coke, why not opt for a cocktail? Or better still, how about two? Sidewalk in Birmingham is offering two gorgeous cocktails for the price of one!

SIDEWALK - BIRMINGHAM

WEST MIDLANDS

BIG BOND STREET QUIZ - *Wed 5 Nov* ...

KY KELLY a...

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Karaok...

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT ... [...

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

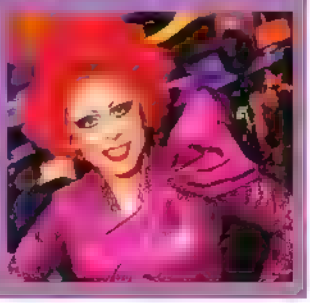
KARAOKE 9pm ...l 3a... ...pm ...l 11pm ...

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

OUT Everyone's Out ...

NG1, NOTTINGHAM

Exclusive live with LA VOIX at Birmingham's Eden Bar



Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist La Voix heads back to Birmingham this month with not one but three fantastic shows at Eden Bar!
Sadly, she didn't quite make it through to the finals of the hit ITV1 talent show - but that means we can keep her all to ourselves here in the Midlands! Catch her live on stage on Sat 15, Thurs 27 & Sat 29 November

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

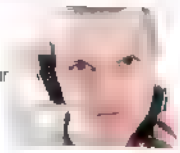
2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12 6pm. Delicious new menu
SIDEWALK

I ♥ THE 90S with DJ Dan Open from 6pm
EDEN BAR

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1 20 bombs With Dj Mykee
MISSING BAR

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DEANO On the decks Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN



DROP THE BOMB start of your weekend £1 50 on all bombs ,excluding the Gutterbomb) with our resident DJ Rowan
SIDEWALK

LA VOIX - *Thurs 27 Nov* - Live on stage alternate Thursdays Cocktails & Cabaret
EDEN BAR

MISS MARTY'S MADHOUSE Songs Games and Happy Hour unt 2am With Miss Marty and Dj Deano
THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED £5 entry Drinks from a £1 Dj Corey playing chart dance and urban on Ground Floor Miss Marty and DJ Craig with a the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SHOUT FESTIVAL - *Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Nov* - Get caught up in the drama. www.shoutfestival.co.uk
[illegible]

[illegible]
THE FOX

[illegible]
BAR JESTER

[illegible]
CUBE DV8

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP KARAOKE [illegible]
THREE FURNACES TELFORD

[illegible]
THE LION, WALSALL

GET OUT with DJ [illegible]
THE BELL
STOURBRIDGE

HOUSE OF FUNCTION - *Wed 6 Nov* - [illegible]
THE LION, WALSALL

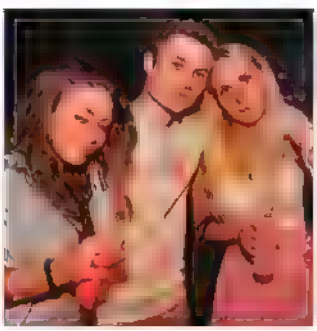
POP [illegible] &
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

RETRO [illegible]
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

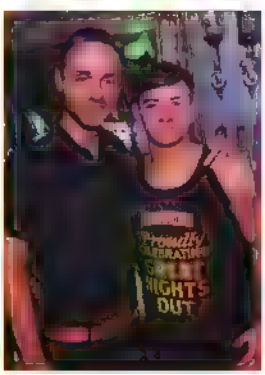
2 TILL 2 [illegible]
THE BOSTON,
NORTHAMPTON

Late night clubbing at Birmingham's Bar Jester



If you're out and about in Birmingham's gay village and don't want your clubbing fun to end, pop into Bar Jester for a great night that goes on till the crack of dawn!

That's right! Bar Jester stays open til the very early hours of the morning giving you plenty of time to dance yourself senseless! Question is, though, have you got the necessary stamina?



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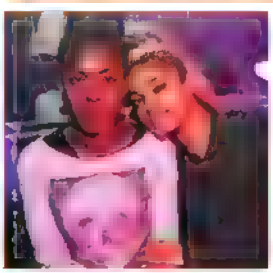


XXL brings all the guys from men to the yard

Every third Friday of the month (Friday 21 November) sees Britain's biggest men-only party, XXL, head to Birmingham. The hugely successful London event is hosted by the Core Club and brings together the men of the Midlands and beyond. Expect lots of bare bodies on a packed dance-floor and top-quality music from XXL's resident DJ, Christian M! The guys at the Core Club have great drinks offers available all night long too!

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12-6pm. Delicious new menu.
SIDEWALK

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES Dj Parm takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too
SIDEWALK

DJ JAMES HOSTS A NIGHT OF PARTY TUNES

Every Friday sees Birmingham's Missing Bar hosting a night of party anthems. Join DJ James from 9pm till late and blast out some of your favourite songs over the speakers! Don't forget there are great drinks offers too!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours
[illegible]

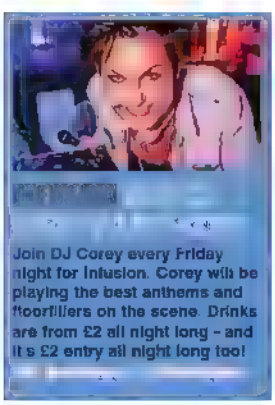
DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki
[illegible]

FREAKY FRIDAY with DJ Lotty. Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. *Fri 7 Nov* Marty. *Fri 14 Nov* Titti La Camp. *Fri 21 Nov* Miss Jason. *Fri 28 Nov* Sandra. Happy Hour 12noon - 8pm.
THE VILLAGE INN

INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James
MISSING BAR

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday
THE VILLAGE INN



Join DJ Corey every Friday night for Infusion. Corey will be playing the best anthems and floorfillers on the scene. Drinks are from £2 all night long - and it's £2 entry all night long too!

MIDSBEAR MEET-UP AT EDEN BAR

Friday 21 November sees the monthly Midsbears meet-up take place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. If you've not been before, it's a monthly social group for Bears and their admirers. It's a great night out too, so be sure to pop along!
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

MIDSBEARS - *Fri 21 Nov* - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers
[illegible]

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SAATHI - *Fri 28 Nov* - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

VINTAGE FRIDAYS AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

If you're into a bit of old school music, head down to The Loft Lounge in Birmingham every Friday night for a hot helping of Motown, Northern Soul, funk, rock and all of your classic favourites.
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

SECONDCITY

[illegible]

Chart-topping act Secondcity head to Birmingham's Nightingale this month (Fri 28 Nov) for So It Goes, which also features a great lineup of DJs throughout the evening. Don't miss it!
[illegible]

SECONDCITY - *Fri 28 Nov* - So It Goes' moves to its new home with a live PA from Secondcity. UK No1 I Wanna Feel
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikki, every Friday. your chance to win cash
EDEN BAR

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites
THE LOFT LOUNGE

XXL - *Fri 21 Nov* - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month
THE CORE CLUB

BOLLYWOOD NIGHTS Every [illegible]
CLUB DV8

FUNK'D UP
[illegible]
CLUB CHIC

KARAOKE Come an[illegible]
THE FOX

RETRO FRIDAY Retro tunes with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am
[illegible]
BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

TV PARTY NIGHT A Men's Night for TVs, Cross Dressers and Admirers. Every Friday night at
THE GREENHOUSE, DARLASTON

BACK 2 BACK KARAOKE with [illegible]shawn and DJ Moses. 8pm-4
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

BANG [illegible]
[illegible]
THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT [illegible]
[illegible]
THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS Start[illegible]
[illegible]
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

FRIDAY SOCIAL with [illegible]
[illegible]
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

LUSH & YOLO! 1st Fri month
[illegible] resider[illegible]
[illegible]
PINK, STOKE-ON-TRENT

TFI FRIDAY A[illegible]
[illegible]
BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

EAST MIDLANDS

CABARET NIGHT eve[illegible]
[illegible]
DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

CLUB ORBIT
[illegible]
HELSINKI, LEICESTER

[illegible] FOUNDER
[illegible]
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

[illegible] BAILEY
[illegible]
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

THE WEEKEND STARTS HERE
[illegible]
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

LIFE IS A CABARET at Birmingham's Village Inn

If you're out on a Friday night and looking for some great entertainment, then look no further than Birmingham's award-winning Village Inn. November sees four great acts take to the stage. Kicking off the month's line-up is Marty on Friday the 7th. Next up, on Friday the 14th, is the brilliant Titti La Camp. Miss Jason gives it her all on the 21st. Wrapping things up is the brilliant Sandra, on Friday the [illegible]

The Village Inn

NOVEMBER CABARET

FRIDAY 07
miss marty

FRIDAY 28
sandra

FRIDAY 14
titti la camp

FRIDAY 21
miss jason

MICHELLE VISAGE hosts a Snatch Game in Birmingham

The Nightingale in Birmingham has been on a bit of a spree recently, hosting lots of RuPaul's Drag Race favourites.
This month is no different! Saturday 22 November sees RuPaul's Drag Race judge Michelle Visage visiting the venue. She'll be on hand for the Gale s very own Snatch Game. Expect plenty of fun during this fantastic one-off night!
And there's all the usual Nightingale clubbing action to enjoy throughout the evening too, so be sure to pop along!
THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB - BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

2-4-1 SPOOKY COCKTAILS - *Sat 1 Nov* - Start your Halloween night out n style with 2 4-1 Spooky Cocktails all weekend
THE LOFT LOUNGE

80S HITS with DJ Dan from 2am it s back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions
EDEN BAR

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
MISSING BAR

BACK TO THE 80S 2am 4am
EDEN BAR

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors. 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With Dj. Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With Dj. Tonie in The Village Underground
THE VILLAGE INN

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CHRIS MEARS - *Sat 29 Nov* - The former British Olympic diver turned Dj. appears live on the decks
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm Halloween Special - *Sat 1 Nov* - with Pete Graham Wayne H, Lisa Sharred & Joe Campbell
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL - *Sat 1 Nov* - Big night out at Birmingham s popular cabaret bar. With cash prizes to be won
THE VILLAGE INN

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND - *Sat 1 Nov* - A big party night at Sidewalk with a scary fancy dress competition
SIDEWALK

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic. plus music from across the decades
MISSING

LA VOIX - *Sat 15 Nov* - Live on stage - *Sat 29 Nov* - La Voix & Mary Mac take to the stage With the Birmingham Bulls v Thebans Scottish rugby team
EDEN BAR

L&R With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday
THE VILLAGE INN

MICHELLE VISAGE - *Sat 22 Nov* - Snatch Game plus Meet & Greet
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MISS PENNY'S BIRTHDAY BASH!

The Queen of Greggs, Miss Penny, is celebrating her birthday in typically spectacular style this month, throwing a party on Saturday 9 November. She'll have Rose Garden as a special guest too!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

MISS PENNY'S Supersize Birthday Special. - *Sat 9 Nov* - With special guests Rose Garden Thunderpussy, pam Catz & Tilly
MISSING BAR

MORRISEY NIGHT - *Sat 8 Nov* - In the marquee
EDEN BAR

QUEENS OF POP SET TO CAUSE MAYHEM

Controversial drag duo the Queens of Pop are set to return to Birmingham's Eden Bar on Saturday 1 November, starring alongside hot stripper Fabio. Pop down - it's gonna be a great night!
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

QUARANTINE - *Sat 1 Nov* - Halloween Special With a £1000 cash giveaway.
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

QUEENS OF POP - *Sat 1 Nov* - With Fabio Keith s Birthday Bash Everyone welcome
EDEN BAR

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY with Dj Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy Shane on his stilts Open until 4am
MISSING BAR

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident Dj. playing the best of everything.
SIDEWALK

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

TWIGGY TERROR & GORY GAVINA - *Sat 1 Nov* - A super spooky night out at Birmingham s Missing Bar with the one and only Twiggy
MISSING, BIRMINGHAM

10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY - *Sat 29 Nov* -
CLUB CHIC

THE [illegible] CLUB
CLUB CHIC

DJ NIKKI 1st Sat m
[illegible]

[illegible]
THE FOX

#JUST SAYING
[illegible]

KARAOKE
THE WELLINGTON

SCAREFEST - *Sat 1 Nov* - Featur host of residen DJs as well a
CLUB CHIC, BIRMINGHAM

WEST MIDLANDS

[illegible]
BALL - *Sat 27 Nov* - Spooky Goings on n Stoke £400 cash nze Open unt 6a
THE LION, WALSALL

ARACHNOMANIA - *Sat 1 - Mon 3 Nov* - Spooky G
GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT

[illegible]
Classics n th
THE LION, WALSALL

CAMP & SLAG 9n midnight hen S
[illegible]

CLUB NIGHT Drink pron 9.45 Free entry before 10p
THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Ch & Charts Ope 4pm-3a
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

INCLUSION Birming ham & UK Dj s every we
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

LIVE CABARET
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

NOT TO MISS Fre
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

EAST MIDLANDS

[illegible]
1pm £3 before 1a
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 10 6 30am 3 Dj s With DJ Cina Fr
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

CLUB NIGHT With DJ N P rom midnight Free entry befor midnight £6 at
HELSINKI, LEICESTER

CHRIS MEARS set to make a splash at The Nightingale

You know that really sexy British Olympic diver? No, not Tom Daley; the other one? Yes, that's him - Chris Mears! Well, did you know he's also a DJ and music producer? And guess what? He's coming to Birmingham's Nightingale Club this month (Sat 29 Nov).
Be sure to get down there early, because we predict it's going to be a very, very busy night - think of it as an early Christmas present to yourself!
THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB - BIRMINGHAM

SIDEWALK
RED RIBBON
EVENT
Saturday
29th
Raising awareness for
World AIDs Day
(1st Dec 2014)
WEAR
RACY
RED

THE UK'S
BIGGEST REGIONAL
GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE
READ MIDLANDS ZONE
ON THE GO!
ZONE
@ WWW.MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK

SUNDAY NIGHT CABARET at The Village Inn with Mrs Mills

If, like us, you're a big lover of cabaret, then you're in for a treat every Sunday night at Birmingham's Village Inn! Join Mrs Mills and DJ Deano for a spot of bingo, followed by some top-class cabaret. This month sees Chelsea, Scarlet Tiara, Marty, Charlotte the Harlotte and Champagne Shirley take to the stage. Check the listings to the right to find out when you can catch your favourite act!

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 New menu. Roast Dinner served every Sunday from 1pm
SIDEWALK

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki Every Sunday
EDEN BAR

MISS PENNY DREADFUL - *Sun 2 Nov* - Deathly disturbing live cabaret from popular Midlands darg queen Miss Penny! A great end to your Halloween weekend!
[illegible]

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny
[illegible]

PUB QUIZ - *Sun 23 Nov* - Enter a team in this special quiz
EDEN BAR

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am Just £7.95 Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SUNDAY SESSION & LIVE CABARET with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano Plus Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm *Sun 2 Nov* Chelsea *Sun 9 Nov* Scarlet Tiara *Sun 16 Nov* Marty *Sun 23 Nov* Charlotte The Harlotte *Sun 30 Nov* Champagne Shirley Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served from 1pm Cure that hangover and choose from a variety of meats with all the best bits of a roast for only £6.95
[illegible]

CHILL OUT Look out for th[illegible]
THE FOX

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY with Bo[illegible]
BAR JESTER

[illegible]
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

CHILL OUT [illegible]
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

[illegible]

LAB - *Sat 2 Nov* - [illegible]
THE LION, WALSALL

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4a[illegible]
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE PARTY LOUNGE Relax [illegible]
LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

[illegible]
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

[illegible]
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

[illegible]
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB [illegible]
RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

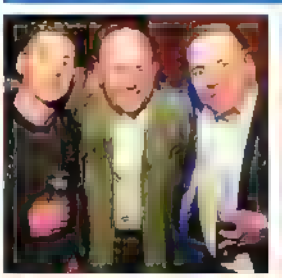
[illegible]
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE WITH T[illegible]
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

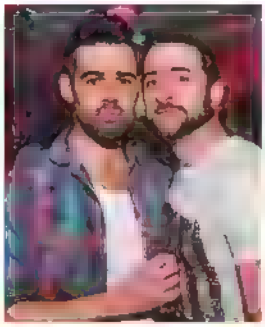
Dance the night away at Birmingham's **Club Chic**

If you're looking for a clubbing night out with a difference, pop down to Birmingham's Club Chic. Here, you'll find some of the UK's best DJs taking to the decks, getting you in the mood for a fantastic night of partying with some fabulous floor-filling tunes
If you've not yet experienced Club Chic, be sure to get down there at your earliest convenience!

More great photos on facebook
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



The Village Inn: The best place to party!



We all love a good dance to some great music when we're out and about on a night out!

That's why, like you, we're big fans of The Village Inn on Hurst Street in Birmingham.

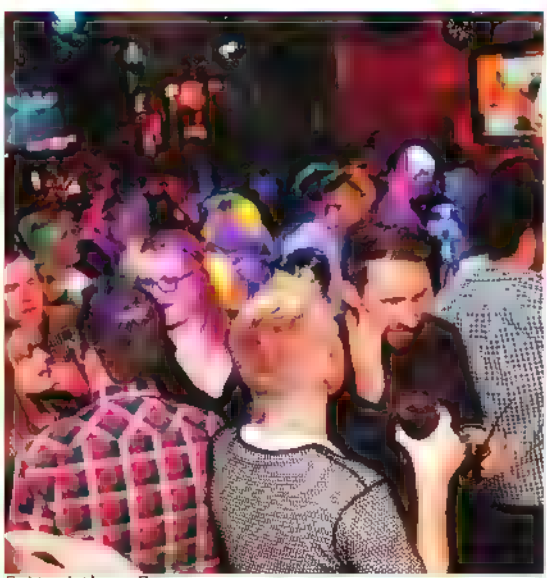
Situated right in the heart of the city's gay village, the venue plays host every weekend to a fabulous pre-club party, with DJs Lotty and Richard Moon, plus the delightful Mrs Mills and Charlotte the Harlotte, making a fantastic contribution to proceedings!

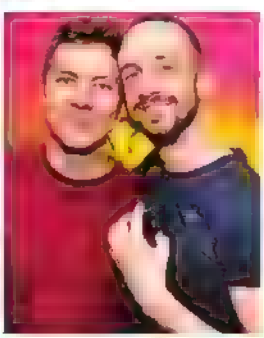
Plus, every Saturday night the venue stays open right through until 8am, letting you party till breakfast!

You'd be mad not to stop by and have a drink and a dance!

www.villagebirmingham.co.uk

More great photos on facebook

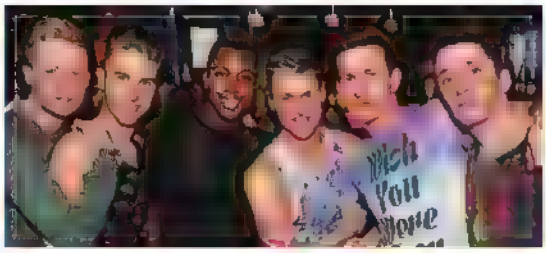




Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

The Nightingale: The gay superclub that's got it all!

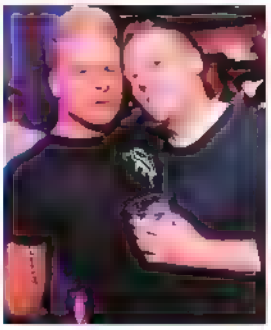
It's spread over three floors and boasts four rooms of music... Plus, it has a line-up of resident DJs that any nightclub anywhere would be envious of. Yep, that's right, we're talking about the Nightingale in Birmingham!
Once you've toured the city's fabulous gay scene bars, be sure to round off your evening by heading down to this massive and popular venue. With regular live PAs, great music and plenty of room to strut your stuff on the dancefloor, you definitely won't be disappointed.
Plus, if you like to cheese it up a bit, the legendary Miss Marty puts on a show every week!
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk



More great photos on **facebook**

Pictures by Laura Byrne

Take a walk on the wild side at Brum's **Sidewalk**



A great pre-club bar to sink your teeth into is Birmingham's Sidewalk, situated right in the heart of the gay village.

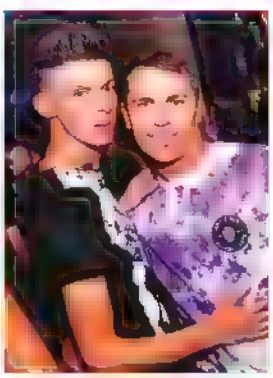
Sidewalk has proved popular with regular punters and new customers alike – and we can certainly see why. It's clean and modern, plays great music and sells fantastic drinks at fabulous prices!

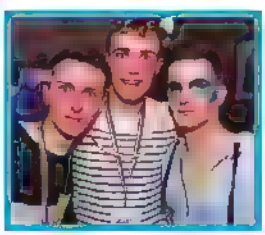
The dancefloor by the bar is always full – the perfect place for you to get your twerk on – or there's plenty of seating at the other side of the venue if you fancy a rest.

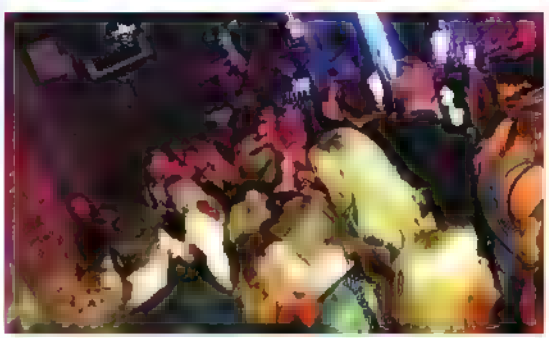
Oh, and if you're peckish they've got that covered too courtesy of a tasty menu

www.sidewalkbirmingham.com

More great photos on **facebook**







Pictures by Laura Byrne

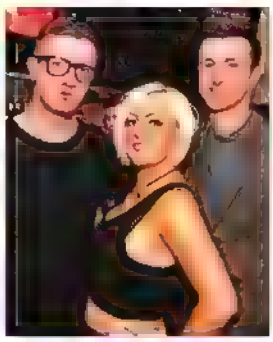
Champagne and cocktails at **The Loft Lounge**

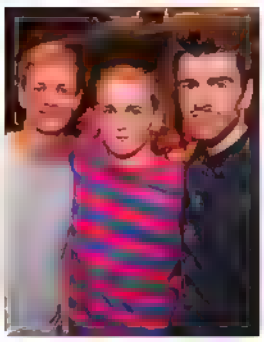
If you're on a big night out with your friends, family or co-workers, then stop by The Loft Lounge in Birmingham and kick-start your evening in style!

We all love a bottle of bubbly or a couple of cocktails - and luckily The Loft Lounge offers both (and they're bloody great too!). In fact, there's a really great cocktail menu from which to choose, meaning that there really is something for everyone (even the designated driver of your group, courtesy of a selection of non-alcoholic offerings!).

And don't forget the venue also has a great food menu, so book yourself a table and tuck in!

www.theloftlounge.co.uk





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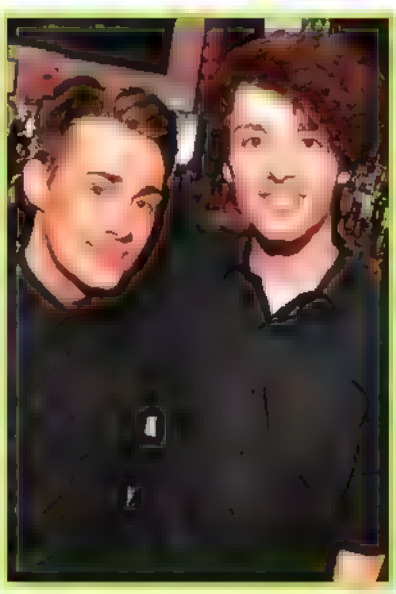

Pictures by Laura Byrne

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GET UP CAUGHT IN THE DRAMA
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mac birmingham / Rep Theatre / Library of Birmingham / Birmingham LGBT Centre / Eden
www.shoutfestival.co.uk
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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
FESTIVALS BIRMINGHAM
Full Potential of Arts
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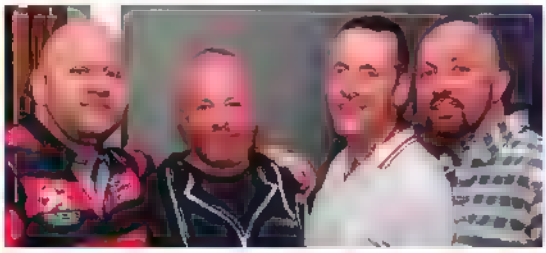
Brum's **Eden Bar:** It's the best a man can get

Birmingham bar Eden has, for many years, taken away the Best Bar For Men gong at the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards. And not without good reason..

The bar attracts a massive cross-section of fellas (women are welcome too, of course), from bears to cubs and otters to twinks.

If cabaret's your thing, you're in luck. La Voix is live on three separate occasions this very month! Check out our Scene Diary to find out when. So why not pop in on your next night out, sample the friendly atmosphere, and say a big hello to Eden bosses Garry and Cal.



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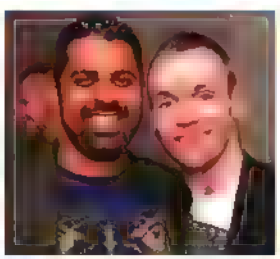
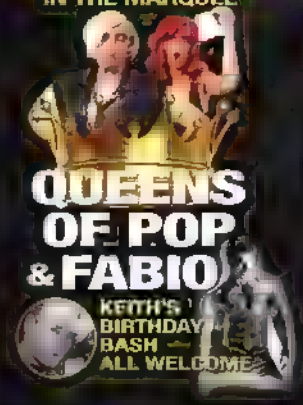


Pictures by Laura Byrne

EDEN NOVEMBER

Sat 1st Nov
IN THE MARQUEE



QUEENS OF POP & FABIO

KEITH'S BIRTHDAY BASH ALL WELCOME

Sat 8th
PANIC

The SMITHS & Morrissey Disco Night £5

/smithsdiscobrum

In The Marquee

Sun 16th
MY Comedy at SHOUT

BARBARA NICE

MC, Maureen Younger
Jen Brister
Julie Jepson

Show starts at 19:00 and tickets are £9/£7

Sun 23rd
PUB QUIZZ

QUIZZICAL

WITH THE BIRMINGHAM BULLS FROM 5PM

Everyone Welcome

Fri 21st
MidsBears Monthly Meet In the Marquee

Special Drinks Offers All Night

EVERY THURS
I ♥ THE 90s

90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

GREAT ATMOSPHERE

EVERY FRI & SUN

KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI

COME ALONG & SING WITH A FRIENDLY REGULAR CROWD

EVERY SAT

80s HITS WITH DJ DAN

POP & DANCE TILL 2
80s FROM 2-4 AM &
CRAZY DRINK PRICES

La Voix
exclusive to eden

Sat 15th
Thurs 27th

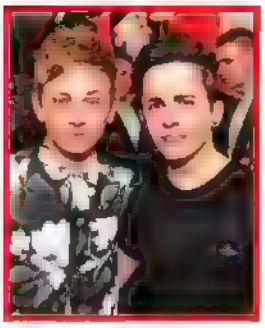
If you haven't yet been to what is fast becoming the best cabaret night in town you need to get along and see La Voix.
Now Filling the Marquee !
Cocktails & Cabaret
with table service on Thursdays

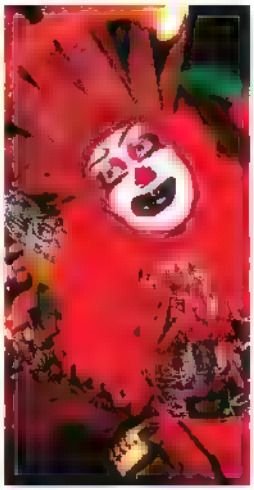
& Sat 29TH
La Voix with Mary Mac
Birmingham Bulls
vs Thebans Scottish Rugby Team

Open from 2pm every day.

116 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 6NB 0121 622 1953 www.theedenbar.co.uk

Party with Twiggy, twinks and more at **Missing Bar**!



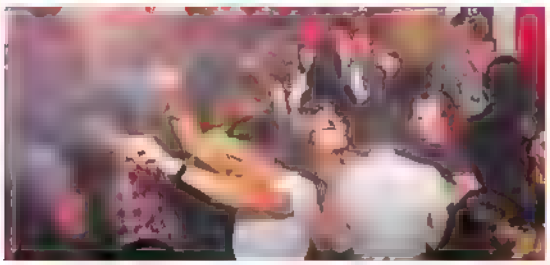


If you love to party and you're popping into Birmingham's gay village on a Saturday night, make sure you stop by Missing Bar for a drink and a dance!

There, you'll be greeted by the ever-fabulous Twiggy - in her handmade costumes, of course - who'll make sure your time in the popular party bar is an experience to remember.

There are plenty of musical delights to enjoy too, from resident DJ Mykee. He'll be playing a mix of all things camp, cheese, pop, commercial, dance and chart - so you're bound to hear something you can boogie to. Pop in and say hi to the team, enjoy a couple of drinks and party the night away!

www.missingbar.co.uk



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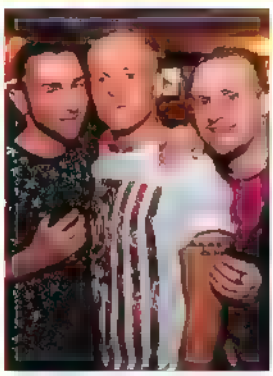

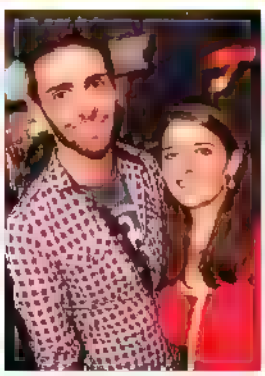

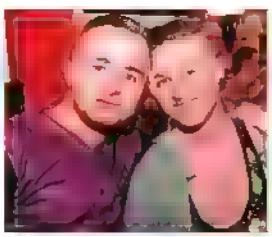

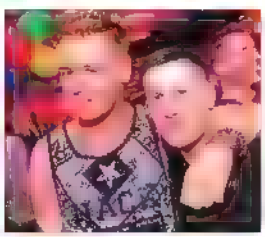

Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Missing NOVEMBER

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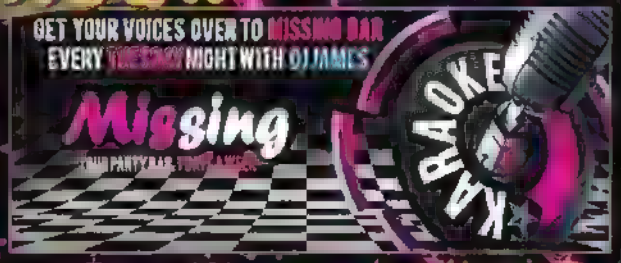
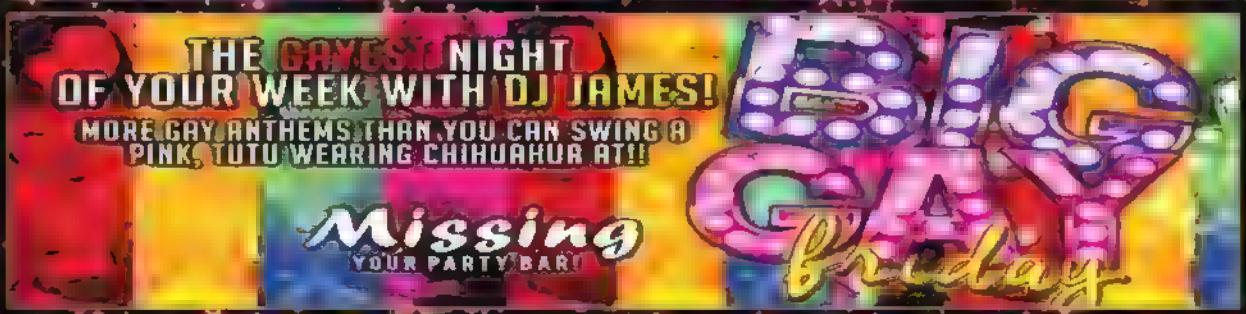
info@missingbar.co.uk

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MORE GAY ANTHEMS THAN YOU CAN SWING A PINK, TUTU WEARING CHIHUAHUA AT!!
Missing
YOUR PARTY BAR!
BIG GAY friday

A new cabaret lounge for **The Lion Bar & Club**

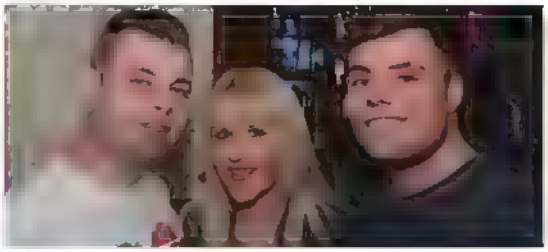
A brand new cabaret lounge has just opened in Walsall's Lion Bar & Club - and we can tell you now, it's pretty swanky!

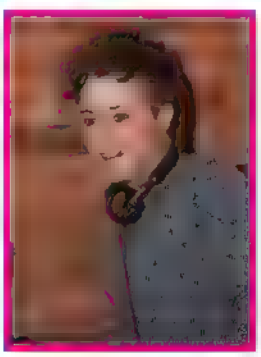
The new cabaret lounge was developed as part of Pro ect 26 an ongoing initiative tak ing place in the Lion Bar s 26th year of operation, which is see ng the whole venue being transformed bit by bit

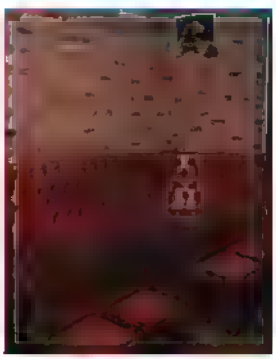
Featuring luxurious Chesterfield-esque leather seat ng and exposed brick work, the new lounge brings a cosy yet modern vibe to the venue, and also features its very own stage area. Let the cabaret begin!

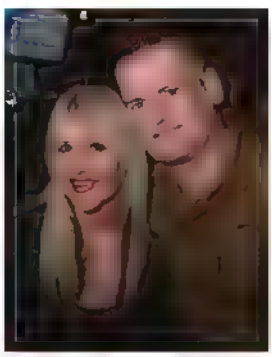
Oh and the DJs even get their very own booth.

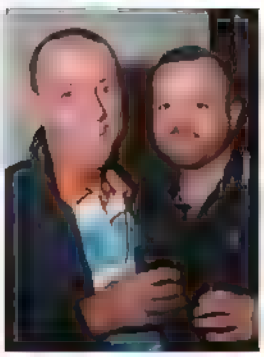
Why not pop in and check it out for yourself

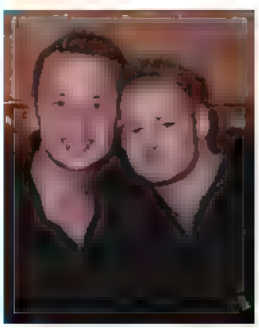


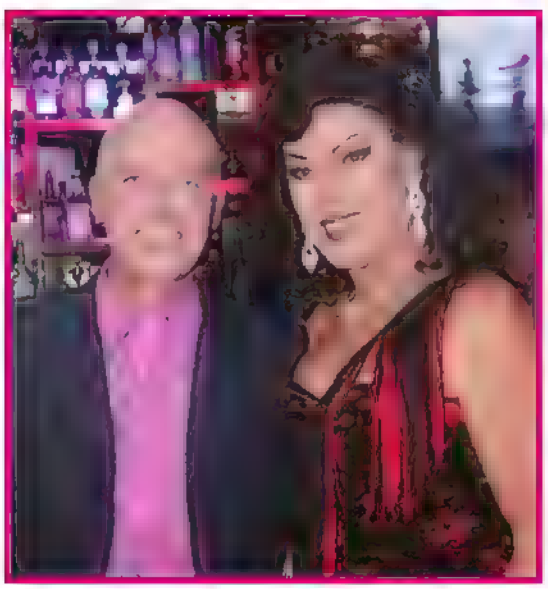












Pictures by Kris Green

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CLUB DV8
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Street, B5 6RD
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www.thecoreclub.co.uk
/thecoreclubbirmingham

EDEN BAR p44
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www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 44

EQUATOR
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FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
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THE FOX
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Tel: 01782 2727 2

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Tel: 07825 305050

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School St WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART
[illegible] St
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

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Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
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Tel: 01905 20218

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Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO Gay every Wed
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Tel: 0116 251 7988

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Tel: 01623 633330

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The Judas Kiss

David Hare's acclaimed play centres around the relationship between Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas, concentrating on two critical points during Wilde's final years – the eve of his arrest at the Cadogan Hotel and a night in Naples after his release from two years' imprisonment. The production contains both male and female nudity and has been deemed unsuitable for young people below the age of fourteen

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 22 - Sat 29 November

The Full Monty

Sheffield Theatres is the company behind this stage version of one of the most successful British screen comedies of all time, telling the story of six unemployed steel workers who decide to get their kits off to earn some much-needed cash. Featuring songs from the film by Donna Summer, Rod Stewart, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones, the show stars Gary Lucy, Andrew Dunn, Louis Emerick, Rupert Hill, Martin Miller and Bobby Schofield

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 24 - Sat 29 November

Circa: Wunderkammer

Seven performers of unbelievable ability bend the very fabric of reality. Sexy, funny and explosive, Circa's Wunderkammer is a breathless cocktail of new circus, cabaret and vaudeville. Control and abandon, skill and humour, lyricism and anarchy all meld into a sinuous fugue of profound beauty.
Circa is world renowned for creating startling new ways to experience circus. Combining seemingly impossible physical feats with a poetic sensibility, its creations move, amaze and astonish

Curve Theatre, Leicester, Wed 5 - Sat 8 November

PALOMA FAITH

A familiar presence on the London underground circuit for several years, the multi-talented Paloma Faith eventually broke into the mainstream thanks to her theatrical image and retro-soul sound. After turning down an opportunity to join Amy Winehouse's band, she began writing and performing her own songs, and soon earned a reputation as one of the capital's most unique and flamboyant live acts.

Faith's sixty-six-date tour follows the release of her third album 'A Perfect Contradiction', which debuted at number two on the UK Albums Chart.

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 10 Nov; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 22 Nov

Kasabian

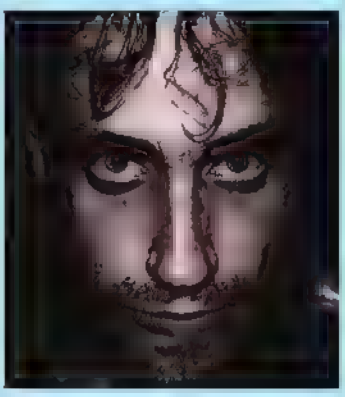
"It could be the littlest thing from any track that inspires us," says Kasabian singer Tom Meighan, "even a rubbish track might have a little sound in there that appeals to us." There are certainly no shortage of influences evident in Kasabian's music - The Stones, The Doors, The Beatles, Motown, Chuck Berry, Roy Orbison, The Four Tops, The Supremes. Add in a little Ennio Morricone and early Pink Floyd and it's easy to see why this hugely successful Leicester band appeal to such a wide range of people.

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sat 22 November

Beardyman

Darren Foreman, better known as Beardyman, is a British musician from London renowned for his beatboxing skills and use of live looping technology. Becoming UK Beatbox Champion in 2006 and retaining his title the following year - making him the first beatboxer in UK history to win two consecutive championships - he released twenty track debut offering I Done A Album in 2011. This UK tour comes in support of his eagerly awaited second album, Distractions, which is released this month.

The Institute, Birmingham, Sun 23 November



Big Country

Big Country and big success went hand-in-hand at the start of the 1980s. The Scottish rockers' highly original, guitar-driven sound brilliantly evoked the inspirational spirit of bagpipes, fiddles and other traditional folk instruments.

The fellas are out on the road this autumn to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their Steeltown album. They here present a concert that features not only songs from the classic multi-million-seller but also hits and favourites from across their career including Harvest Home, Fields Of Fire, In A Big Country, Chance, Wonderland, Look Away and The Teacher.

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Thurs 13 November

The Imitation Game

CERT 12a (112 mins)

Starring **Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Rory Kinnear, Charles Dance, Mark Strong**
Directed by **Morten Tyldum (UK/USA)**

At the time of writing Benedict Cumberbatch is the favourite to win the Oscar next year for his role as Alan Turing, the Father of computer science Based on the biography Alan Turing, The Enigma by Andrew Hodges, the film chronicles Turing s part in winning the Second World War (by helping to crack the Nazi's Enigma code) and then his criminal prosecution for being homosexual The director previously brought us the ingenious, breathless and sexy Norwegian thriller Headhunters (2011)

Out 21 November

Frozen CERT PG (111 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Jonathan Groff, Josh Gad, Santino Fontana, Alan Tudyk, Jack Whitehall**
Directed by **Chris Buck** and **Jennifer Lee (USA)**

Should you have missed Disney s 53rd animated feature (in their so called Animated Classics' series) here s your chance to catch up with what is now the highest grossing cartoon of all time It s a predictably ravishing treat for the eyes as we as boast ng a strong story (nspired by Hans Christian Andersen s 'The Snow Queen'), catchy songs (you may a ready be familiar with the Oscar-winning `Let It Go) and a very funny sidekick in the form of a snowman with a penchant for non sequiturs It is perhaps fashionable to knock the sentimentality and professional efficiency of Disney s more recent output, but the studio has always been sentimenta, and here provides us with a whirlwind of emotions, heartbreak, romance, humour action, thrills and yes OK, schmaltz. And as with every noteworthy cartoon, it s packed with enthralling background deta , which rewards its audience with repeated viewings. Furthermore, as the freckled heroine at the heart of this beguiling tale, Anna is a captivating protagonist, a lost soul full of hope and spirit yet also endearingly innocent and vulnerable. Only the ntroduction of a Transformers ke snow monster sounds a truly false note.

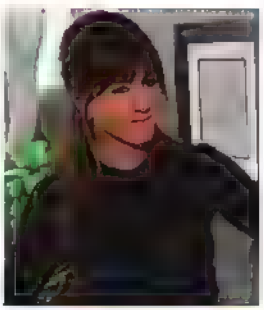
Out 21 November

Horrible Bosses 2

CERT 15 (108 mins)

Starring **Jason Bateman, Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis, Jennifer Aniston, Jamie Foxx, Chris Pine, Christoph Waltz, Kevin Spacey**
Directed by **Sean Anders (USA)**

When Dale Kurt and Nick decide to start up their own business, an investor appears to have two-timed them So they decide to get the upper hand by kidnapping his son. What a cast Out 21 November



November Man

CERT 15 (108 mins)

Starring **Pierce Brosnan, Luke Bracey, Olga Kurylenko, Eliza Taylor, Will Patton** Directed by **Roger Donaldson (USA)**

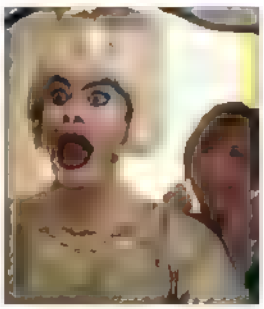
As the poster says' "a spy is never out of the game." So Pierce Brosnan, aged 62, unpacks his gun and finds himself at loggerheads with his erstwhile protégé. Luke Bracey, of Home and Away fame, plays the protégé Filmed in Serbia and Montenegro.

Out 7 November

The Skeleton Twins CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring **Bill Hader, Kristen Wiig, Luke Wilson, Ty Burrell, Boyd Holbrook** Directed by **Craig Johnson (USA)**

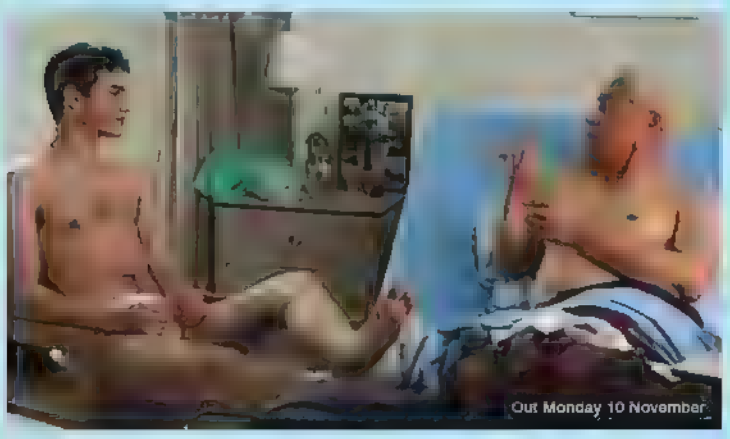
When the estranged twins Milo and Maggie attempt suicide on the same day they are reunited and take a fresh look at the wrong turns their lives have taken Expect some laughs and tears. Out 7 November



DVDs

Gerontophilia (18)

Lake is young, sexy, in the prime of life attracted to older men and has landed himself a job as a care assistant at a local nursing home. When he meets the charming and flamboyant Melvyn they strike up an unlikely friendship, one that deepens considerably after they 'break out' and head off on an eventful road trip.



Tru Love (15)

The elegant Alice visits her uptight daughter, Suzanne, in frosty Toronto. Suzanne's too busy to spend time with her mother, so asks best friend Tru to show her around the city. The pair instantly connect, understanding each other's loneliness. In one another, they find a soul mate. Disturbed by their closeness, Suzanne does everything within her power to keep Tru away from her mother - but nothing can beat true love.

...and something to read

The Life And Loves Of A He Devil

by Graham Norton

Written with characteristic humour and often outrageous candour, Graham Norton's autobiography conveys a simple enough message: life is more than just a series of dates, and it's really the things you love that make you who you are. And Graham loves plenty, from his dogs and Ireland to the men in his life and New York City. It's been ten years since Graham's last book hit our shelves, a decade older he's come to realise that what makes life interesting isn't what happens to a person but rather what drives them forward and inspires them.

New Music

FOUR

One Direction

FOUR is the fourth studio album from the world's biggest boyband, One Direction. The album was written with the help of people such as McFly, Good Charlotte, The 1975 and John Legend. A must for all fans!

NOW 89

Various Artists

NOW 89 is the latest in a decades-long series of compilation albums - and is one of the biggest yet. Featuring chart hits from the past six months, it almost inevitably features one or several of your favourite songs. Oh, and it's great for the car!

Forever

Queen

This fantastic compilation album is a must-own for all Queen fans, featuring tracks the band had 'forgotten' about. Vocals come from the long-lamented Freddy Mercury.

Boyzilian: Male Grooming

Midlands Zone tests out Birmingham's newest exclusive male grooming salon...

In the main, 21st century men are well into looking their very best - and that's why Stephen Cole has launched Boyzilian, Birmingham's newest exclusive male grooming salon.

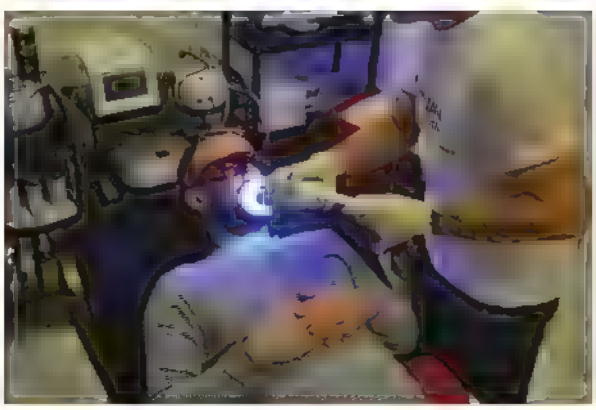
Stephen specialises in numerous different services tailored for the modern gay man, one of which is waxing. If you're looking for smooth and silky skin, head to Boyzilian for a whole range of comfortable waxing services. Whether you want a 'back, sack and crack' wax or just your upper body doing, Stephen can oblige while ensuring you retain your dignity - and all from just £10!

Alongside waxing, Stephen also offers a laser teeth-whitening service. We sent Anthony along to check it out, and he was very pleased with the results. The hour-long treatment makes a big difference whitening your teeth by up to ten shades in just one session!

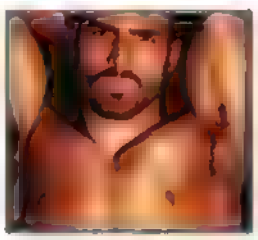
If you want something a bit more relaxing, then Boyzilian offers a great range of massages and facials that will leave you feeling calm and rejuvenated.

Another great Boyzilian service is its tanning sessions - handy when you've got a big event to attend, or even for those last-minute nights out. After all, everybody loves an all-over tan!

Visit www.boyzilianstudio.com for more information, or call 0121 616 5043



BOYZILIAN Studio
Exclusive male grooming



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Legal Scene: Protect your children's future

Since the Adoption & Children Act came into force in 2005, gay and lesbian single persons, as well as same-sex couples, have had a right to adopt a child in the UK. Significant, then, are figures published by the Department for Education which show that the number of same-sex couples adopting in England doubled over a four-year period, rising from three percent in 2009 to six percent in 2013

Here, Lee Trubshaw, Partner at solicitors Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP, highlights points LGBT people should consider when choosing the best people to fulfil two very different roles.

My partner and I are considering who to ask to be Godparents to our adopted son but are unsure whether they would have a legal responsibility towards him in the event of our deaths

The first thing to be aware of is that a Godparent is not a legal appointment, so should anything happen to both of you before your son reaches the age of 18, his Godparents do not automatically become responsible for him. The tradition of selecting a Godparent was to ensure a child's religious education, although in the present day it tends to mean that the family members or friends fulfilling the role will take an interest in the child's development and overall well being.

Is a Godparent the same as a Guardian?

A person can be both a Godparent and a Guardian provided that the parent(s) have appointed them as a legal Guardian in the event of both their deaths.

Why should we appoint Guardians for our adopted young family?

Guardians are usually appointed in conjunction with making a Will. However many LGBT people with children under the age of 18 perceive themselves to be too young to need a Will, but don't realise that if they both die the Courts will determine where the children will live. This means that even if your children have Godparents, they have no legal rights. It's also important to take into consideration that some people, including possibly your own family members, may believe that gay people shouldn't be allowed to adopt. So to prevent fighting over the Guardianship of your children in the event of both your deaths, it's best to formally make your wishes clear in your Will, as the Courts will honour the appointment of a Guardian even if the Guardian is not related by blood

What is a Guardian's role?

A legal Guardian assumes all legal rights and obligations for a child if there is no surviving parent with parental responsibility. The Guardian is responsible for looking after a child in the same way that its parents would - for example: ensuring it's fed, clothed, goes to school, is taught the difference between right and wrong - as well as for making decisions that directly affect the child, such as how it is schooled. When considering who to appoint, it's important to assess whether your Guardian(s) can offer a stable environment; how you rate their values and parenting skills, whether they're willing to take on long-term responsibility for caring for your children; the quality of their relationship with your children.

How many Guardians should we appoint?

Typically people choose to appoint two Guardians - who are often civil partnered, married or in a long-term, stable relationship - although you may appoint just one

My partner passed away suddenly, leaving two young children. They have no contact with their natural father so can I apply to become their Guardian?

If you seek to become a legal Guardian, you must first be assessed by Social Services, who submit their findings to the Family Proceedings Court. The Family Proceedings Court deals with the welfare of children, so a person becoming a legal Guardian will be asked to clarify how they will uphold and execute the parental responsibilities initially charged to a parent. Both bodies need to be certain that you, as the proposed Guardian, are able to take on the responsibilities involved, and that the children are also happy with you as their Guardian.

For advice on civil partnerships, same-sex marriage, family and other legal matters, contact Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP on 01543 421840.

Counselling
Experiencing feelings of depression and/or anxiety?
Issues around sexuality and gender identity?
Struggling with mental health difficulties?
EMPOWER
FREE one-to-one therapy sessions for LGB and T people suffering with a range of personal and emotional difficulties
LGBT affirming therapists
A confidential and safe environment
Non-judgemental practice
Call LGBT Network Wolverhampton 01905 425 092 or email info@lgbtwolverhampton.org.uk
LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON
pride
Made possible thanks to Birmingham Pride Trust Fund

CAM4: THE INTERACTIVE PORN SITE

The revolution in gay porn that's making waves!

Most of us have watched porn to get ourselves excited - and some of you have no doubt thought about starring in it too! Well, with Cam4 you can do both - and perhaps earn some delicious dosh to add to your rainy-day fund!

WATCHING HOT GUYS

Unlike a traditional gay porn site, Cam4 features real guys like you and I, streaming themselves (and often their partners too). From twinks to bears and cubs to otters, you're spoilt for choice. Whilst Cam4's free to watch, you can tip performers with actual cash as a means of expressing your appreciation for a performance. If you want to ask a performer something, you can use the handy chat box next to each stream, allowing you to really interact with them.

BROADCASTING YOURSELF

If you've got a decent webcam and want to earn yourself a few quid for your savings account, then Cam4 is the perfect option - providing you're not shy or body-concious! You could earn up to £120 an hour by becoming a performer in your own right. As long as it's legal, then you're free to express yourself to a massive audience. Who knows - it could even lead to bigger things in the future!

FACTS & FIGURES

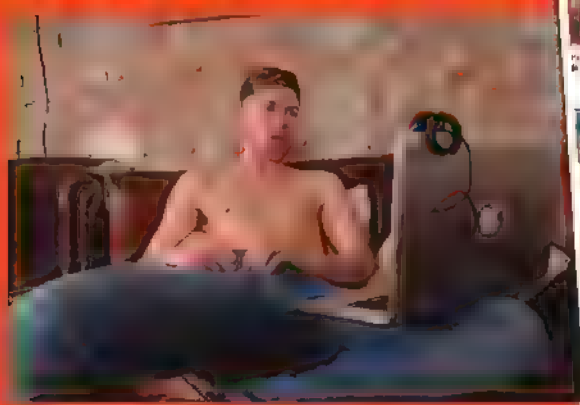
Here are a few reasons why we LOVE Cam4, and why you will too...

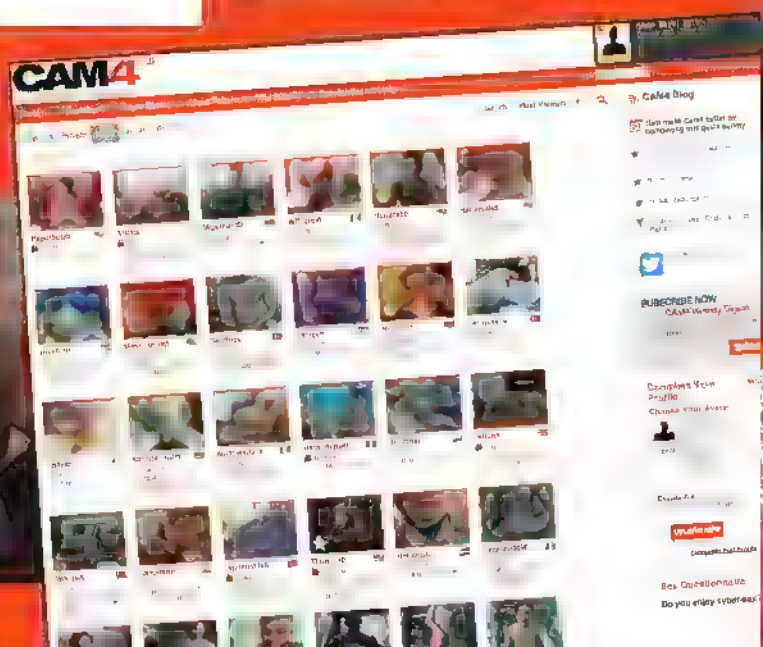
- If you don't want to pay, you don't have to! It's 100% free and you don't even need an account to start viewing!
- At any one time, there are thousands of performers live. So if you don't like what you see or it gets a bit boring, there's plenty of choice.
- If you have a preference for a particular type of guy from a certain country, then you're in luck! Cam4 has performers in over 55 countries speaking a whole host of languages.
- You're not the only one watching Cam4. In fact, it has over 5.5 million unique customers a day from over 120 countries!
- Cam4 is massive on social media too - with over 100,000 followers on sites like Twitter and Facebook.
- If you chose to start broadcasting you could make up to £120 per hour! Think of all that money you could earn for doing something you'd usually do with the lights off!
- Unlike traditional porn sites, you don't need to pay a penny to sign up. Creating an account lets you interact with the guys on the other end, plus everyone else who's watching too!
- According to a survey by Cam4, a whopping 73% of users say they would recommend the site. And we would too.

GET AN HD WEBCAM!

We recommend getting your hands on the powerful Logitech Pro C920 Full HD Webcam. It boasts stunning high-definition video and great audio quality. Handily, it can also be mounted onto a tripod allowing you to move it anywhere in the bedroom meaning you don't have to move your computer.

VISIT WWW.CAM4.CO.UK/MALE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF!





CAM4
THOUSANDS OF GUYS
JUST LIKE JAMES
LIVE ON CAM
100% FREE
www.cam4.co.uk/male

LGBT Alcohol Support Group seeking community feedback

Birmingham's LGBT Alcohol Support Group has set up a survey to find out how effective it's being in reaching out to the city's gay community.

Results of the survey will be used to improve the group's marketing and promotions, to ensure that all LGBT people who need the service are aware of its existence

The Support Group is encouraging as many people as possible to complete the two-minute survey, which is completely confidential. The group will not be able to identify participants

To take part, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk.

The LGBT Alcohol Support Group offers a safe and comfortable place to meet people who have had, or are having, the same issues.

Programme for female survivors of domestic violence launched in Wolves

A groundbreaking programme designed to improve confidence, self-worth and understanding has been launched by LGBT Wolverhampton for female survivors of domestic violence.

Domestic violence within the LGBT community is all too common and often overlooked. There can be added shame in seeking support, as well as a lack of resources and understanding. At LGBT Wolverhampton, they want to do something about the problem and make a positive difference

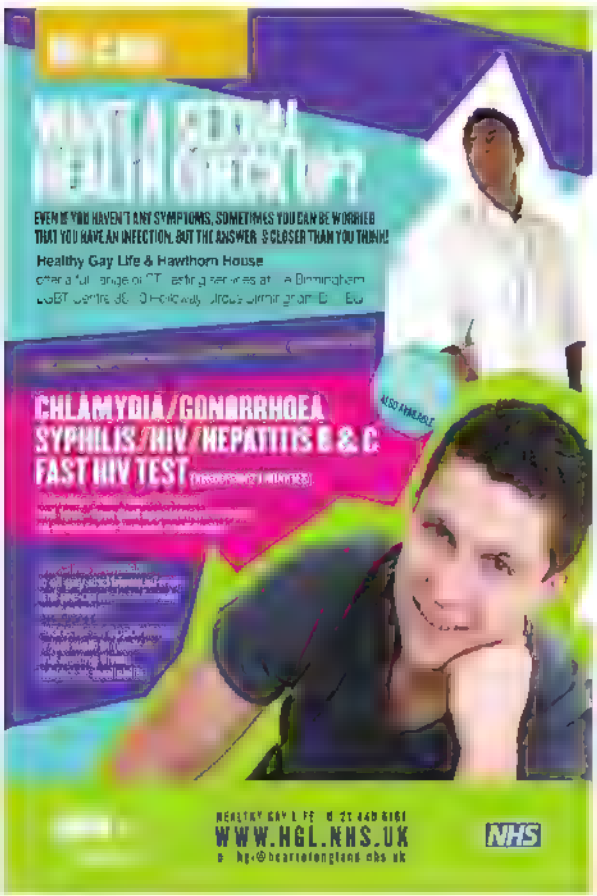
LGBT Wolverhampton is working in partnership with Azurite Training to offer the Freedom Programme to lesbian, bisexual and trans women. The programme is based on the world-renowned Freedom Programme, developed by Pat Craven. For the first time ever, it will be adapted for lesbian, bisexual and trans women.

Led by Jennie, who is a fully qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisor and Freedom Programme Facilitator, the programme aims to empower female survivors of domestic abuse

Jennie brings with her a wealth of knowledge about the attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators of violence and about the way in which this can impact on all areas of a victim's life

By attending the Freedom Programme, women will improve their understanding, confidence and self-worth as they begin to piece together the many personas of an abusive partner. The programme will enable women to change their behaviours and recognise when they are being controlled

If you would like to talk to someone about what's going on in your life or previous relationships, get in touch with Martha Bishop by calling 01902 425092, or email martha@lgbtwolverhampton.org.uk


EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T ANY SYMPTOMS, SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE WORRIED THAT YOU HAVE AN INFECTION. BUT THE ANSWER IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!
Healthy Gay Life & Hawthorn House
CHLAMYDIA/GONORRHOEA
SYPHILIS/HIV/HEPATITIS B & C
FAST HIV TEST
WWW.HGL.NHS.UK
NHS

New sexual health service for young people opens its doors in West Bromwich

Sandwell Council and young people's sexual health charity Brook have opened new premises in West Bromwich.

The Brook service is located at 10 St Michael s Court, Victoria Street opposite West Bromwich s bus depot.

A stakeholder launch for the new premises, held on 5 September, was attended by representatives from Brook, Sandwell Council and local partner organisations, and the Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Derek Rowley (see photo).

Brook West Bromwich is commissioned by the Public Health department of Sandwell Council It will provide high-quality clinical services to young people under 25, including free contraception, sexual health checkups and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. The new premises will provide four sessions per week, with both appointments and walk-in services available.

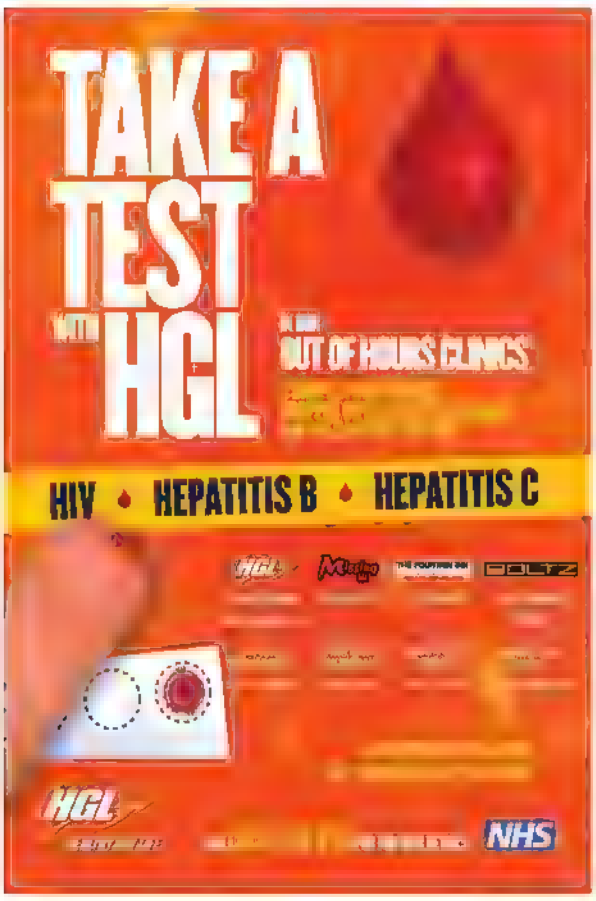
The opening times for Brook West Bromwich are:

- Monday: 12pm to 7pm
- Wednesday: 12pm to 7pm
- Friday: 12pm to 7pm
- Saturday: 12pm to 4pm.

Councillor Paul Moore, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing at Sandwell Council, said: "Brook is an excellent charity which provides young people with free confidential advice and access to quality services on behalf of Sandwell Council.

"I'm delighted that we continue to work in partnership with Brook and that their new premises will be in a visible, easily accessible location in West Bromwich."

Brook is the UK's leading provider of sexual health services and advice for young people under 25. The charity has 50 years of experience working with young people, and currently has services in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Jersey. Brook also provides support services and programmes to help young people make positive and healthy lifestyle choices, and to improve their personal and emotional wellbeing.



SUMMIT HOUSE
SUPPORT
LGBTQ
SERVICES
www.shsl.org.uk

GET TESTED!

- HIV Rapid Testing (results given in 1 minute)
- Chlamydia Screening
- Syphilis Rapid Testing

Our Free & Confidential services in Dudley and Sandwell include:

- Support with dealing with HIV diagnoses and medication adherence
- Sexual Health information & Advice
- Access to Counselling and Complementary therapies
- Free access to condoms and lube
- One to one support with complex issues
- Peer Support Groups
- Support for sero-discordant relationships
- Support and advice around your rights, discrimination or hate crime
- Twice monthly non-scene Gay & Bisexual Men's group
- UNIQUE - Young Persons (16-24 yrs) LGBTQ support

Contact us today to book an appointment or for more information.
Unit 2 Holloway House, Martin Hill Street, **Dudley** DY2 8RT
Suite 3, 1st Floor Lanchard House, Victoria Street, **West Bromwich** B70 8ER
info@shsl.org.uk / 01384 243 220
summit house

Arts Groups

ACE A Chorus of Equality Meets every Thursday 5.30-7pm. Tel: [illegible] 429092

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to all. Email actingout@hotmail.com or visit www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group. Contact beckytebbett@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly. LGBT Centre B'ham. e.hadenhouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. Email info@bgso.org.uk or visit www.bgso.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday 1st Every Month Tel: 01384 815000

GAPP Gay and Performing Proudly, Birmingham. Call Mike 07545 507791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent. Tel: Brenda [illegible] 642881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. Call Chris on [illegible] 830248

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm. Tel: Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon [illegible] 445 [illegible]206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Call Carolyn [illegible]828 647384 or Steve 07813 025990

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading Group 1st Monday monthly 5.45pm Tel: 0121 558 0497

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project. Leicestershire & Rutland e: [illegible].leicestershire@ltcentre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am Walsall Central Library. Contact Pam 01922 [illegible]3121

LGBT Social

ALLsorts Group for young adults 16-25 LGBT Centre Leicester. Call Paul Fenton [illegible]116 254 7412

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social Group meets in Walsall every Saturday 1-4pm in Village Hub, Caldmore, Walsall Tel: 07475 942929

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (18+). LGBT Centre, Leicester Call: Dennis 0116 254 7412

DRUM IN GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Head Drop in Tel: [illegible]332 [illegible]80

DRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month e: brandi.rogout@hotmail.com

COVENTRY LADS Social group aimed at the Lesbian Scene. Call Jo on [illegible] 6 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester www.dmulgbt[illegible].uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.derbyshire [illegible] for Derbyshire Lesbians, Gay employee network group

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social Group. Tel: 01332 207704

DOSTI South Asian men's group Leicester Call 0116 254 1774

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided Tel: Matt Barlow on [illegible]384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call: 08703 215121 Birmingham contact: 0121 351 [illegible]61

EVERGREEN LGBT Social group in Bham Tel: [illegible]749 4[illegible]289

FAN LGBT Socia. Events group. Nothants www.fannorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call: Simon on 0121 565 4166

GAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton. Twice monthly. Thurs 8-10pm. Tel: 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community social group meets every Thurs [illegible] centre 7.30. Tel [illegible]452 [illegible]3

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop-in The Health Centre Blue Street Hereford No appointment necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire Tel: 0116 254 1147

I-ME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton [illegible] meeting monthly Tel: [illegible]8 [illegible]4dou2

LADS CAFE Shropshire Telford & Wrekin. Call [illegible]952 [illegible]410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 8-10pm. Tel: [illegible]88 6[illegible]

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Planning activities for all to enjoy. Meet every 1st & 3rd Tuesday. lavendarmovement[illegible]g mail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 29[illegible]6*8

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester. Call: 0116 254 [illegible]4 2

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke or Trent. Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaystaffs.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30. Contact 01159478858

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating Black LGBT people in the community. West Midlands Social Group. Tel: 0121 446 1086

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since [illegible]995. Call: [illegible]00050

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West Bham LGBT group offers non scene social events and activities. Call [illegible]6 2742[illegible]1

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm Gaybourne Wines Tel: 01902 425092

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's social non-scene group. 4th Sat monthly. Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow on [illegible]384 243220

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at OMH. 3rd Monday monthly at The Nib 8-11pm Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Finding A Voice. Social Group in Birmingham. Meet once a month at Bham LGBT Centre. Call: 0121 643 [illegible]60

THIRD WAY Social Group for Bi people over 18. Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton. 7-9pm. Tel: 01902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group. Call [illegible]9 [illegible]84

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group. Over 18s only e: [illegible]walsall[illegible]hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society. Organises events in and around the University Campus. e: hello [illegible]warwickpride.org

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community group www.lgbtworcestergp.org.uk

WS MIDLANDS LGBT Social group. Every 1st Tues monthly 7.30pm in Walsall Tel: 0[illegible]8 [illegible]

LGBT Support

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Information group. Email bccLgbt@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST campaigning and lobbying group. To connect and represent LGBT community's views e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGB Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives. Call: 0121 446 [illegible]86

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED Oral history project. Gaybrum.org remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Social numerous social groups. Call us on 0116 254 [illegible]412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel: 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: [illegible]6 49[illegible]11

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in Call: 01782 425969

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT community. Tel: 0121 622 2092

PRISM A long-run LGBT people in Leicester Call [illegible]116 254 [illegible]412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire. Call: 0115 934 9529

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Meets every 1st for professionals and the LGBT Community. Tel: [illegible]116 254 1747

Mature Groups

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50. Rainbows Coventry. Call: James on 07824 448717 or Nichola on 02476 231999

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people. Call [illegible]116 254 [illegible]412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 11am-4pm. Tel: [illegible]902 425092

LGBT 50+ South Staffs social group, for people 50+. e: lgbtstaffordshirebuddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am - 1pm. Call: Trevor on [illegible]9 861840

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men. Call Trevor on [illegible]54 [illegible]948

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature, over 40s Gay and Bi Sexual men in Wolves. Every Monday 7-10pm. Tel: [illegible]902 425092

OLDER LBQ Women's network social group. Derby Based. Call: [illegible]779 [illegible]084

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel: [illegible]902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT. Tel: 01782 [illegible]8

Religious Groups

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation drop-in classes. Tel: 0121 449 5279

BIRMINGHAM L.G.C.M. Christian fellowship group. Tel: [illegible]43 [illegible]345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact: The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

DERBY QUEST for spirituality. 5pm-5.45pm. Tel: [illegible]8 2957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham. Call: 0121 44[illegible] Wolverhampton Call: [illegible]34 [illegible]684

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends. Call: [illegible]20 [illegible]5

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christian movement. Tel: 0121 453 [illegible] (24hr) or text to [illegible]43 01[illegible]

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship. Social and supportive group founded on Quaker principles. www.lgf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics. Tel: 0808 808 [illegible]4

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Parents. All Parties name [illegible]me. Call: [illegible]43 [illegible]309

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS Support group for lesbian and gay Christians e: [illegible]lana2910@hotmail.com or call [illegible]9 4 [illegible]88

Sports Groups

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT friendly football team. www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT friendly Rugby Team. Call Andy [illegible]08 [illegible]864 or visit birminghambullsrfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham. www.bournvillehc.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team. Call: [illegible]eth [illegible]6 2[illegible]5 [illegible]57

LGBT Community indoor Football in Wolverhampton. Tel: [illegible]902 [illegible]092

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-8.30pm. Tel: 0121 643 0821

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 [illegible]092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays. Contact: [illegible]ot[illegible]@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham. Call Andy on [illegible]6 [illegible]41

MOSELEY SHOALS Bham [illegible]'s GOC Gay Swim Group. For info call 0121 [illegible]2

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOIS Gay friendly team founded in 2006. Call: 07828 014952

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads. www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call Andy on 01782 [illegible]167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel: [illegible]902 [illegible]092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club. Tel: Andy on [illegible]845 [illegible]050

Social Groups

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week. www.bculgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union. www.udsu.gbt.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel: 0121 204 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University contact Aaron [illegible]ans e: [illegible]@le.ac.uk or Hayley e: [illegible]@guild.bham.ac.uk

Women's Groups

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS A new network in Birmingham for lesbians, bisexuals, curious girls and allies. hoogroups.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women centered book group. Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm. Tel: 0121 622 3[illegible]3

BI-WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP A discussion group for bi women at Queer Central. Email: [illegible]@hotmail.com

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the Wolverhampton area. Call: 0[illegible]905 9[illegible]91

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbian and Bi women. www.borderwomen.net

L BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly. Tel: 07817 548802

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film night every 3rd Sunday monthly. www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub e: [illegible]@yahoo.co.uk

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?

Do you need to feature your group? contact Ryan Humphreys Editor on 01743 281722

the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact on- sue@hotmail. co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group. Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call 01782 266996

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly e me_myself i79@outlook.com

Youth Groups

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel 0645 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT young people, Tel: 0115 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield Tel: 07796 611781

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry info@prismlgbtq.org

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21 Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

XZY Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday e [illegible].org.uk

HIV AIDS Helplines

ASPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel 0121 415 6670 (5 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay/ Bisexual men to promote sexual mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley Sandwell borough. Tel 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs Birmingham: 0121 694 6440 Solihull: 0121 694 6440 Coventry 02476 229292 Nottingham: 0115 882 [illegible] Telford: 01952 221410 Wolves. 01902 711515

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs Leicester Tel 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel. 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester. Tel 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area Tel: 01782 266996 (Loleta Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat Summit House, Dudley Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs Tel: 01782 266996

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 5485 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing Cafe, Community Groups Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 344474

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk in Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am Tel 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GAOL STREET Open Monday - Friday Call 01432 376915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing Leicester Call 0116 254 1747

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge Call Matt 07980 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham. 1st Monday monthly. Call: Adrian on 0115 883 9061

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGB&T individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 613141

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project providing free, confidential advice & support Tel 01905 681751

Support Groups

Allplus Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call Peter on 07960 [illegible]926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment e: smartbigbt@yahoo.com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOST! South Asian men's support group Leicester Call 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. call: 07779 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel 0121 446 1065 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel 0121 440 6161 Email: info@hgl.nhs.uk

KETTERING OUT AND PROUD ASSOCIATION Organises support in the Kettering area. Call: 07877 825235

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel 01782 266996

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly Tel 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health Contact Alison Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social, networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink parents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel past & present Helpline 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT: BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel 0121 200 1695

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in Service. Every Friday. Tel 01384 243220

SWAN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone' Tel: 07542 070 240

TIME OUT COUNSELLING Coventry. For all LGBT+ people Tel: 07936 525668

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit:facebook.com /groups/butterfliesleicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group Email sally@outskirtgtg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

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2015
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first Thursday of the month: 2pm - 9pm
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2nd Monday of the month 3-6pm

Clinic at the R3troClub
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~ Ring for details ~

you do not have to be from Walsall to take advantage of this service

NHS Walsall
Walsall HIV Team 07963 124 445
mornscolin@walsall.gov.uk ~ melsmore@walsall.gov.uk
Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41

Do you think you have a drink problem?
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SPARTAN
Tel: 0121 382 3345
127 George Road, Erdington
Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
Tel: 0116 367 3932
61 Bedford St
South Leicester LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

UNIT 2
Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

CELTS
Tel: 0116 285 6000
38 Narborough Road
Leicester LE3 0BQ
celts-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM
Tel: 01332 209150
8-9 St Mary's Gate,Derby
DE1 3JF
citysteam.co.uk

CITY STEAM 2
Tel: 0115 959 8603
1 Le[illegible]x Street
Nott[illegible]ham NG1 1ER
citysteam.co.uk

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
Tel: 01384 442030
[illegible] West Midlands
DY[illegible] 3E
heroeshealthclub.com

Tel: 01623 422257
71 [illegible] Gate Mansfield
NG18 2JB
manzfields.co.uk

CITY CELTS
Tel: 0116 262 7770
[illegible] New [illegible] Leicester
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THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

Cardinal sins

US cardinal Raymond Burke recently decided to give us the benefit of his most profound thoughts - namely, how unwise he feels it is for gay people to go along to family gatherings if there are children present.

Funnily enough, I'm way ahead of him on this one. I always try not to go to any event where there are going to be children in evidence. This is not, however, to protect the children, rather to protect me from all the screeching and shouting and tantrumming that tends to happen wherever there are children. They also have a habit of stealing my thunder. If anyone's going to have a good tantrum at a family do, it will be me, thank you very much.

Cardinal Burke didn't stop there, though. He also went on to describe same-sex relationships as 'disordered' (my house may be disordered, but my relationship is no more out of kilter than anyone else's). Had he said enough? No, he didn't think so. He would also like us to know that homosexuals commit acts which "are always and everywhere wrong, evil". Nice. If he was hoping to wheedle his way onto my Christmas card list, I've got to say he's going the wrong way about it.

And no, that wasn't all he had to say on the matter. He also described the "aggressive homosexual agenda". I'm not entirely sure what he means by this but, ironically, I've never felt more aggressive than I did when he was sharing his wisdom about gay relationships.

On the plus side, the Catholic church, at all levels, has since distanced itself from his comments, having decided that slagging off the gays wasn't doing much for its credibility amongst the far more sensible general (Catholic and non-Catholic) public.

Personally, I'm not religious and thus have no idea what God, whoever he/she may or may not be, thinks about my relationship and my presence at weddings/funerals/bar mitzvahs etc. I suspect there are bigger things in the world for an omnipotent being to concern themselves with. I am, however, pleased that, aside from Burke (and other burks - see what I did there?!]), some of the major religions are running with this 'tolerance and acceptance' thing.

There will always be idiots (Westboro Baptist Church, I'm looking at you) and there always have been idiots (so many of you to look at here, I'm developing a stigmatism), but the closer we're getting to happy smileyness, and the further away we get from all that hell and damnation, the better the world's going to be.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Wish you were here?

The news last month reminded us that not all holiday destinations are as gay friendly as Sitges, Mykonos or Key West.

British tourist Ray Cole was arrested on 18 September at a bus stop in Marrakech, in the company of a local man with whom he'd struck up a relationship online several months previously.

Approached by police who suspected him of being gay, Cole was arrested and detained, along with his friend.

The Moroccan authorities had found a photo on Cole's phone purportedly providing evidence of 'homosexual acts', which are illegal in Morocco. They then investigated his Facebook page and email account in search of corroborating evidence.

After an initial trial was adjourned because Cole had neither legal representation nor a translator, he was tried, found guilty of 'homosexual acts' and sentenced to four months in jail. His family set up an online petition for his release and a crowdfunding page to help pay the legal and translator fees.

An appeal was lodged last week, and Cole was unexpectedly released.

Morocco is not the only country where you can be arrested, imprisoned and even face the death penalty for being gay. The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association lists 78 countries with criminal laws against sexual activity by LGBTs. This total would actually be higher if you were to include Russia, which doesn't have a law against homosexual acts but is in the midst of an anti-gay crackdown on the basis of its new law against 'gay propaganda'.

But before we take for granted the freedoms we enjoy here in the 'tolerant' UK, let's not forget Nigel Farage, who was accused last month of stooping to "a new level of ignorance" after he called for people who've tested positive for HIV to be banned from migrating to Britain. The UKIP leader made his remarks in an interview with Newsweek Europe, published as polls closed in the Clacton by-election. When asked what sort of people should be allowed to migrate to Britain, he said: "People who do not have HIV, to be frank. That's a good start."

Well, I'd like to make a good start, Mr Farage. By not voting UKIP!

Nigel Farage

Quotes of the month...

Here, we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from www.midlandszone.co.uk, Facebook page and Twitter feed...

S Club 7 announce Children In Need reunion

OMG! This has got to be the best thing to happen to pop since Steps reunited a couple of years ago. Now all we need is the Spice Girls to announce a reunion and then we've practically resurrected a whole decade of music! Come on, Posh Spice, play ball with the rest of the girls!
Dan Smith (via Facebook)

Oh dear, oh dear. We're really scraping the barrel now, aren't we? Why can't the dreadful acts, who were dreadful back in the day, just stay where they are? It was bad enough that I was subjected to the likes of Bring It All Back and S Club Party back in the early noughties, let alone being subjected to it again now!
Faye Wilson-Turner (via Facebook

I think this is great news. To be honest, I'm not one of their biggest fans, but I always found my foot tapping along to their music. It's all in aid of a good cause, so if it raises lots for Children In Need, who are we to moan?
Sandra O'Malley (via Facebook)

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